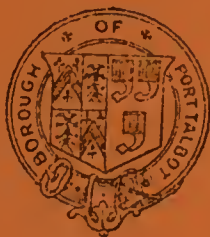


Borough of Port Talbot.



*ANNUAL*  
**REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health  
and the Sanitary Inspector**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**DECEMBER 31st, 1925.**



D. W. Jones, Printer, Courtland Place, Port Talbot.



Borough of Port Talbot.



*ANNUAL*  
**REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

For the Year 1925

ON THE SANITARY ADMINISTRATION  
AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE  
BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT

.BY

**E. W. RICHARDS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical  
Officer and Medical Superintendent  
of the Fever Hospital.

## SANITARY COMMITTEE.

---

Councillor J. LEWIS (Chairman).

Councillor W. R. THOMAS, Councillor T. MAINWARING.

Councillor G. R. S. BYASS, Councillor H. J. THOMAS.

Councillor J. J. EDWARDS, Councillor E. HEYCOCK.

Councillor D. REES, Councillor E. U. DAVID.

Councillor K. S. WIEHRLE, Councillor G. HARRIS.

Councillor D. A. REES.



## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

---

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Mrs. L. M. THOMAS, Mrs. W. EDWARDS,

Mrs. M. J. HARRIES, Mrs. DUMMER,

Mrs. JOSEPH, Mrs. NASH.

## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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Medical Officer of Health :

E. W. RICHARDS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors :

WM. F. BISHOP, Senior Sanitary Inspector, C.R.S.I.

A. BISHOP, Sanitary Inspector.

(C.R.S.I. and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector).

(A.R.S.I. Member Institute Hygiene.)

G. A. MORGAN, Sanitary Inspector.

(C.R.S.I. and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector. C.R.S.I. School Hygiene and Physiology. General Hygiene Diploma, Institute of Hygiene. Testamur Sanitary Science, University College, Wales. Member R.S.I. Member Inst. Hygiene).

Matron of Fever Hospital :

Miss H. F. CROSS.

Health Visitors :

Mrs. E. A. THOMAS, C.M.B.

Miss K. HILL, State Registered Nurse, C.M.B. & H.V. Diploma

Clerk :

Miss D. CUSSE,

**BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT.**

*To the Mayor and Members of the Port Talbot  
Borough Council.*

GENTLEMEN.

**I** BEG to submit for your consideration my Fourth Annual Report upon the Sanitary Administration and Vital Statistics of your Borough. This is for the year ended December 31st, 1925, and is to be a Survey Report dealing comprehensively with—

- (a) the measure of progress in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the Public Health;
- (b) the extent and character of the changes made during that period in the Public Health Services of the area;
- (c) any further action of importance in the organisation or development of Public Health Services.

The subjects to be dealt with in the Report fall under the following main heads :—

Natural and social conditions of the area ;  
General provision of Health Services in the area ;  
Sanitary circumstances of the area ;  
Housing ;  
Inspection and supervision of Food ;  
Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases ;  
Maternity and Child Welfare.

There will be some difficulty in carrying out the exact requirements of the Ministry in the matter of a survey over the period of five years, inasmuch as the statistics for the year 1921 are not available for the whole of the Borough, but an effort will be made to meet with their demands as far as possible.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

**E. W. RICHARDS,**

*Medical Officer of Health.*

May, 1926.

## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

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The Borough of Port Talbot was formed on the 9th November, 1921, by an extension of the Old Borough of Aberavon and re-named the Borough of Port Talbot.

The new Borough of Port Talbot included the old Borough of Aberavon, the Margam Urban District, and the parishes of Michaelstone Lower and Baglan Lower in the Neath Rural District.

The area of the Borough is 25,458 acres including the foreshore. It comprises a low lying plain along the seashore varying from half a mile to two or three miles in width, with a more mountainous portion arising steeply from this to a height of somewhere between 700 and 1,200 feet in a distance of half a mile to a mile. This mountainous portion consists of three mountain ranges running towards the north east. They are Mynydd Dinas in the west, Mynydd Emroch in the middle and Mynydd Margam in the east. Between these are formed the Avan and Dyffryn Valleys with the Rivers Avan and Ffrwdwyllt running to the sea at Aberavon and Port Talbot respectively.

The mountainous portion is on the whole barren and is made up of a thin layer of soil on the Pennant Rock. It gives sustenance to a small number of sheep.

The low lying land along the seaboard with the exception of a strip abutting on the foreshore consists of rich alluvium and the soil is very productive. The strip abutting on the foreshore is covered with blown sand, making it unfertile and unproductive. The whole length of the seashore has one of the finest stretches of sandy beaches in the country.

The configuration of the area is such that there is little land available for building purposes without extending out towards the east, in the direction of Groes and Margam and towards the west in the direction of Baglan.

The mountains rise abruptly, and their sides towards the sea and in the valleys are unsuitable as building sites.

Large tracts of the seaboard plain are also unsuitable because they are low lying, giving very little fall for drainage. As a result, the level of the subsoil water is high, causing damp foundations.

The Borough extends from Kenfig River near Pyle on the east to Briton Ferry on the west. It extends also to about a mile and a half beyond Pontrhydyfen in the direction of Cymmer, and to about the same distance beyond Bryn towards Maesteg.

The boundaries are as follows :—

To the south and west by the sea.

To the south and east by the Penybont Rural District.

To the north and east by the Maesteg Urban District.

To the north by the Glyncothwyl Urban District.

To the west by the Neath Rural District and by the Neath Borough.

The highest point in the Borough is on the Margam Mountain, and is 1,200 feet above sea level.

The area is rich in coal and it is computed that its resources have hardly been touched. The area is situated near the southern outcrop and an anticline runs through its northern portion, making the working of coal difficult in some places due to terrestrial disturbances.

The Borough is rich in its historical associations. Evidences of remains have been found in different parts which can be traced back to early British settlements. The Via Julia Maritima runs through the Borough from east to west and remains as an important evidence of the Roman occupation. The Norman occupation has left us as evidence the Margam Abbey and its associations.

The Old Borough of Aberavon also played an important part in local history in later mediaeval times.

### **METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.**

The prevailing winds are westerly and south westerly. Shelter is provided from the northerly and easterly winds by mountain ranges. The climate along the coast then is comparatively mild and little snow and frost are experienced during the winter.

The rainfall during the year was 44.91 inches.

There were 155 days upon which no rain fell, there were 28 days upon which more than 0.50 inch fell, and there were 5 days upon which more than an inch of rain fell.

The distribution of the rainfall throughout the year month by month is as follows :—



January	.....	3.80 inches
February	.....	6.22 „
March	.....	1.50 „
April	.....	3.29 „
May	.....	5.29 „
June	.....	0.28 „
July	.....	3.38 „
August	.....	5.15 „
September	.....	4.41 „
October	.....	4.76 „
November	.....	2.91 „
December	.....	3.92 „

The wettest months were seen to be February, May and August and the driest March.

No records have been taken of the temperature, pressure and sunshine, and it is suggested that the necessary apparatus be provided.

The rainfall measurements were taken at Groeswen, 57 feet above sea level. The rainfall would undoubtedly be much higher in the mountain tops.

Comparative figures for the years 1922, 1923 and 1924 are respectively, 42.27, 46.4 and 49.6 inches.

### NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES AND NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS (1921.)

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921 Census) .....	7,197
Number of Separate Families (1921 Census) .....	8,458

From figures supplied by the Assistant Overseer's Department, the number of inhabited houses in 1923 was 7,393.

It is estimated from records of house inspections and from consultation with the Assistant Overseer's Department, that nearly 50% of the cottage property in the area are occupied by more than one separate family.

The rateable value of the area is £199,187 12s. 6d.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £813 0s. 0d.

### Populations.

The estimated population for the mid-year 1925 was 43,500.

Comparative figures for 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924 are as follows :—40,027, 41,690, 42,310 and 43,150.

The people are employed in the following industries chiefly :—

**Coal Mining.**—There are several coal mines in the district—largest being Bryn, Aberbaiden, Cribbwr Fawr, Newlands, Oakwood, Glenhafod and Cwmigwinen. A large number of the inhabitants are employed in coal mining both in the above within the area, and in others outside the area.

**Steel Works.**—These give employment to a large number of persons. Unfortunately for several months during the year, a large portion was closed down on account of industrial depression, throwing a large number of people out of employment.

**Copper Works.**—The Copper Works in the area give employment to a considerable number.

**Tin Works.**—The Tin Works—four in number, employ a large amount of male and female labour.

**Fuel Works.**—These have only been working intermittently during the year. When working at their full capacity, several hundred men are employed.

**Brick Works.**—These give employment to a number of people.

**Tin Stamping Works.**—Give employment to male and female labour.

Port Talbot is a fairly large centre for railway and dock purposes. A considerable quantity of coal is exported and there are several tips on the docks.

A few of the inhabitants in the rural parts are employed in agriculture. There are several large farms along the coastal plain where the land is very fertile.

There is very little female labour employed in industry. The only industries which give employment to women are the four Tin Works and the Tin Stamping Works. All the females employed are unmarried.

It has not been observed that any particular conditions of occupation has had a prejudicial effect on the Public Health of the district, and no special causes of sickness or invalidity have been specially noticed in the area. Rheumatic affections are prevalent in the area. This for the most part, takes the sub-acute type.

### **Nursing Facilities, Hospitals, etc.**

There is a Nursing Institute in Port Talbot, supported by voluntary contributions. Three Nurses are employed in District Nursing. There are two General Hospitals in the area—one in Port Talbot and one in Aberavon. The latter has been

extended and the extension is very nearly ready for opening. This will give a total accommodation of 50 beds including an Eye Out-patient Department.

Surgical and complicated maternity cases only are admitted. A large number of accidents are treated yearly.

All the works in the district are well equipped with the First Aid requirements necessary, and considerable interest is taken in First Aid work. During the winter months, courses of lectures are held. There is a St. John's Ambulance division in the area.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### Births.

The total number of births registered during the year was 966—493 males and 473 females. Included in these were 23 illegitimate births—10 males and 13 females.

The birth-rate for the year then would be 22.20.

\* The rates for previous years would be as follows:—1924—22.7, 1923—23.7, 1922—24.3. The birth-rate for 1921 for the Aberavon Borough was 30.90, while that of the Margam Urban District was 21.07.

The illegitimate birth-rate for the year was 0.52. The rates for previous years were as follows:—1924—0.48, 1923—0.66, 1922—0.59.

The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 18.33, that of the 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London 18.8, that of the Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000) 18.3 and that of London 18.0.

The total births and illegitimate births were distributed in the different Wards as follows:—

Wards.	Total Births.	Illegitimate Births.
Aberavon South .....	285	10
Aberavon North .....	175	6
Cwmavon .....	130	2
Margam West .....	165	2
Margam Central .....	170	2
Margam North .....	41	1

### Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the area was 417—210 males and 207 females. These have to be corrected for out-ward transfers. 18 persons—16 males and 2 females died in the

Borough whose ordinary place of residence was outside the Borough. A large number of these were accidents brought to the Hospitals. To get the nett deaths, corrections have also to be made for inward transfers.

41 deaths were registered outside the Borough of persons whose ordinary place of residence was inside. Of these 24 were males and 17 females.

The outward transfers belonged to the following districts :—

Penybont Rural .....	5
Maesteg .....	2
Mountain Ash .....	1
Neath Rural .....	1
Barry Urban .....	1
South Shields U.D. ....	1
Bristol U.D. ....	1
Narberth R.D. ....	1
Harrogate U.D. ....	1
Cardiff U.D. ....	1
Scunthorpe .....	1
Mumbles .....	1
Brynmawr .....	1

The inward transfers died at the following places :—

Penrhiewtyn .....	11
County Asylum .....	6
Swansea Hospital .....	6
North Wales Sanatorium, Henllys .....	2
Cimla Hospital .....	2
Penybont Rural .....	2
Porthcawl U.D. ....	2
Swansea U.D. ....	2
National Hospital, Queen's Square .....	1
Drymma Hall .....	1
University College Hospital .....	1
Royal Infirmary, Cardiff .....	1
Swansea U.D. ....	2
Newent R.D. ....	1
Tawe Lodge .....	1
Llanelly R.D. ....	1
Penarth U.D. ....	1

The nett deaths registered as belonging to the area after correction for inward and outward transfers then would be 440—217 males and 223 females.

The recorded death-rate for the year then would be 10.11.

The recorded death-rates for the preceding years were as follows :—1924—10.8, 1923—9.9, 1922—11.8.

The recorded death-rate of Aberavon Borough for 1921 was 12.1 and that of Port Talbot for the same period 11.29.

A standardising factor for correcting the death-rate has been calculated and supplied by the Registrar General. This is used for the purpose of comparison with other areas. The factor for this district is 1.092. When the recorded death-rate is multiplied, by this the corrected death-rate is found.

The corrected death-rate for this area then would be 11.04.

The death-rate of England and Wales from all causes for the year was 12.2; that of the 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London was 12.2; that of the 157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000) 11.2 and that of London 11.7.

The causes of death, and the ages at death, and the distribution in the Wards are given in Table I.

### **Enteric Fever, Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Encephalitis Lethargica and Meningococcal Meningitis.**

There were no deaths from the above during the year.

There have been no deaths from Enteric Fever and Small Pox in the area during the last five years.

The annual death-rate of England and Wales for Enteric Fever, Small Pox and Scarlet Fever were respectively 0.01, 0.00 and 0.03.

Comparative figures for Encephalitis Lethargica are as follows :—1 death in 1924, no deaths in 1921, 1922 and 1923.

Meningococcal Meningitis—1 death in 1921, no deaths in 1922, 1923 and 1924.

### **Measles.**

There were 18 deaths from Measles during the year. Measles was prevalent and assumed epidemic form on several occasions in different parts of the Borough. The period of the year when most deaths took place was the three months, June, July and August, when 9 deaths took place. 1 death took place in September and 8 in November and December.

The distribution of the deaths in the Borough was as follows :—

Aberavon South Ward .....	6
Aberavon North Ward .....	7
Cwmavon Ward .....	2
Margam West Ward .....	2
Margam North Ward .....	0
Margam South Ward .....	1

The ages at death were as follows :—

Under 1 year .....	4
1 year and under 2 years .....	5
2 years and under 3 .....	5
3 years and under 4 .....	0
4 years and under 5 .....	2
5 years and under 10 years .....	2

It is thus seen that Measles is most fatal during earlier years of life, and that a child has a better chance of surviving an attack the older he gets.

14 of the above cases were under 3 years of age.

The death-rate from Measles during the year was 0.41; a high figure as compared with a rate of 0.13 for England and Wales for the year.

Comparisons with previous years are as follows :—  
1921—0.00, 1922—0.07, 1923—0.07 and 1924—0.00.

In the case of Measles, death invariably takes place from complications arising, viz. :—Broncho-Pneumonia.

### Whooping Cough.

There was 1 death from Whooping Cough—a child 4 months old. This gives a death-rate of 0.02 as compared with a rate of 0.15 for England and Wales for the year.

Comparative figures for the previous years are as follows :—1921—0.02, 1922—0.40, 1923—0.02, 1924—0.04.

Whooping-cough was only mildly epidemic, although cases continued to occur very nearly throughout the year.

### Diphtheria.

There was 1 death from Diphtheria during the year. This case was also suffering from Scarlet Fever.

The death-rate then would be 0.02 as compared with a rate of 0.07 for England and Wales.

Comparative figures for previous years are as follows :—  
1921—0.45, 1922—0.20, 1923—0.09 and 1924—0.02.



### Influenza.

There were 6 deaths from Influenza during the year. This gives a death rate of 0.13 as compared with 0.32 for England and Wales.

Comparisons with previous years were as follows :—  
1921—0.01, 1922—0.29, 1923—0.07, 1924—0.57.

The deaths from Influenza were not heavy as compared with last year. There were several mild epidemics at different times of the year.

### Tuberculosis.

There were 47 deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis in the area during the year. 36 of these were affected by Tuberculosis of the respiratory system and 11 by Tuberculosis of other systems which were affected as follows :—

Membranes of the Brain (Meningitis) .....	2
Abdomen .....	3
Spine .....	2
Knee .....	1
Prostate .....	1
General .....	2

Of the total, 24 were males and 23 females.

The cases were distributed in the different Wards as follows :—

Aberavon South Ward .....	14
Aberavon North Ward .....	13
Cwmavon Ward .....	8
Margam West Ward .....	6
Margam Central Ward .....	3
Margam North Ward .....	3

The ages at death were as follows :—

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Under 1 year .....	0	2
1 year and under 2 years .....	0	1
2 years and under 3 years .....	0	1
3 " " 4 " .....	0	0
4 " " 5 " .....	0	0
5 " " 10 " .....	1	0
10 " " 15 " .....	1	0
15 " " 20 " .....	5	1
20 " " 25 " .....	5	1
25 " " 35 " .....	9	1
35 " " 45 " .....	7	2
45 " " 55 " .....	6	2
55 " " 65 " .....	1	0
65 " and over .....	1	0

The occupations followed were various and none could be observed to have any influence on the incidence of the disease.

The death-rate from Tuberculosis for the year then would be 1.08. Comparisons with previous years are as follows :—1921—1.03, 1922—1.2, 1923—1.04, 1924—0.88.

### Cancer.

There were 54 deaths from Cancer and Malignant Disease during the year. Of these 21 were males and 33 were females. This gives a death-rate of 1.25 for the year as compared with 1.00 for 1924, 0.90 for 1923, 0.90 for 1922, and 1921—0.97.

The ages at death were as follows :—

Under 15 years	0
15—25	2
25—35	2
35—45	5
45—55	11
55—65	14
65 years and over	20

From the above it can be seen that 45 out of the 54 cases were above the age of 45.

21 of the above were males and 33 were females.

The organs involved were as follows :—

Stomach	13
Bowel	8
Uterus	6
Brain	5
Rectum	4
Oesophagus	3
Skin	3
Tongue	2
Pancreas	2
Jaw	2
Breast	1
Lung	1
Liver	1
Larynx	1
Pharynx	1
Mediastinum	1

The digestive system is the one most involved. 33 deaths occurring as a result of malignant diseases of one or other of its parts.



**Rheumatic Fever.**

There was 1 death from Rheumatic Fever. This occurred in a female seven years of age. This gives a rate of 0.02 as compared with 0.02 in 1924, 0.06 in 1923, 0.06 in 1922 and 0.15 in 1921.

**Diabetes.**

There were 3 deaths from Diabetes—1 male and 2 females. Their ages at death were respectively, 56, 59 and 80.

This gives a rate of 0.06 as compared with a rate of 0.11 for 1924, 0.09 for 1923, 0.12 for 1922 and 0.05 in 1921.

**Cerebral Haemorrhage.**

There were 27 deaths from Cerebral Haemorrhage. 15 were males and 12 were females. All were above 45 years of age with the exception of 1, and 17 were over 65 years of age. This is a disease which occurs with advancing years.

The death-rate for the year from this would be 0.62.

The comparisons with previous years would be as follows :—1924—0.76, 1923—0.51, 1922—0.55 and 1921—0.87.

**Heart Disease.**

There were 58 deaths registered from Heart Disease. The most common cause of Heart Disease is 'Rheumatism' in one or other of its manifestations. The number of deaths directly from Rheumatism is very small, but deaths from indirect results amount to a large number. When the number of deaths is a high one, the amount of sickness, invalidity and loss of work must also be extensive. It is significant also, that the crippling and invalidity occurs during the most vigorous period of life.

Of the above number 28 were males and 30 were females.

This gives a rate of 1.33 as compared with 1.21 in 1924, 1.29 in 1923, 1.07 in 1922 and 1.08 in 1921.

**Arterio Sclerosis.**

There were 4 deaths from Arterio Sclerosis—2 males and 2 females. This gives a rate of 0.09 as compared with 0.25 in 1924, 0.30 in 1923, 0.23 in 1922 and 0.10 in 1921.

This is a disease of advancing years also, and all the deaths occurred in persons of the age of 64 and over.

**Bronchitis.**

38 deaths occurred from Bronchitis, and of these 22 were males and 16 were females.

The death-rate then would be 0.87 as compared with 1.22 in 1924, 0.73 in 1923, 1.22 in 1922 and 0.97 in 1921.

In the distribution of the disease with regard to age, the fact that this disease affects the extremes of life is well evidenced. Three of the deaths were those of children under two, while the rest were in persons 45 years of age and over. Altogether, 23 or more than half were in persons 65 years of age and over.

### **Pneumonia.**

There were 31 deaths from Pneumonia of all forms. Of these 15 were males and 16 were females. This gives a rate of 0.71 as compared with 0.95 in 1924, 0.69 in 1923, 1.43 in 1922 and 0.87 in 1921.

### **Other Respiratory Diseases.**

There was 1 death from other respiratory diseases. This gives a death-rate of 0.02 as compared with 0.11 in 1924, 0.21 in 1923, 0.95 in 1922 and 0.25 in 1921.

### **Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.**

There were 3 deaths from Duodenal or Gastric Ulcer. This gives a rate of 0.06 as compared with 0.09 in 1924, 0.11 in 1923, 0.04 in 1922 and 0.12 in 1921.

### **Diarrhoea, etc., under Two Years.**

This category includes Enteritis and Gastroenteritis.

There were 13 deaths from this during the year.

This gives a death-rate of 0.29 as compared with 0.18 in 1924, 0.14 in 1923, 0.19 in 1922 and 0.98 in 1921.

The death-rate from Diarrhoea per 1,000 births is 13.4 as compared with 9.4 in England and Wales, 10.8 in the 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, 7.6 in the 157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations, 20,000—50,000), and 10.6 in London.

### **Appendicitis and Typhlitis.**

There were 5 deaths from Appendicitis during the year. This gives a rate of 0.11 as compared with 0.09 in 1924, 0.00 in 1923, 0.04 in 1922 and 0.12 in 1921.

### **Cirrhosis of Liver.**

There were 3 deaths from Cirrhosis of the Liver which gives a death-rate of 0.06 as compared with 0.00 in 1924, 0.02 in 1923, 0.02 in 1922 and 0.00 in 1921.

**Acute and Chronic Nephritis.**

There were 18 deaths from Acute and Chronic Nephritis—6 were males and 12 were females. This gives a rate of 0.41 as compared with 0.39 in 1924, 0.33 in 1923, 0.33 in 1922 and 0.62 in 1921.

**Puerperal Sepsis.**

There was 1 death from Puerperal Sepsis. This gives a rate of 0.02 as compared with 0.02 in 1924, 0.02 in 1923, 0.00 in 1922 and 0.00 in 1921.

**Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition.**

There were 3 deaths from other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition.

This gives a death-rate of 0.06 as compared with a rate of 0.03 in 1924, 0.11 in 1923, 0.02 in 1922 and 0.05 in 1921.

Thus, there occurred 4 maternal deaths from all causes during the year. For comparative purposes, this is better expressed as a rate of so many deaths per 1,000 births. In the area it is 4.19 which is the rate applicable all over the country.

The 3 deaths from other diseases and accidents were, Chlorosis, Placenta Praevia and Post Partum Haemorrhage.

**Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth.**

There were 21 deaths from Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth.

This gives a rate of 0.48 as compared with 0.71 in 1923, 0.70 in 1922 and 0.56 in 1921.

**Suicide.**

There were 3 deaths from Suicide during the year—all males.

This gives a rate of 0.06 as compared with 0.00 in 1924, 0.06 in 1923, 0.04 in 1922 and 0.12 in 1921.

**Other Deaths from Violence.**

There were 29 other deaths from violence.

This gives a death-rate of 0.66 as compared with 0.57 in 1924, 0.61 in 1923 and 0.52 in 1922.

The total death-rate from violence then would be 0.73 as compared with a death-rate from violence of 0.47 in England and Wales.

**Other Defined Diseases.**

There were 51 deaths coming under the above category. Of these 21 were males and 30 females. This gives a rate of 1.17 as compared with 1.25 in 1924, 1.74 in 1923, 1.91 in 1922 and 2.84 in 1921.

The principal causes of death during the year were thus seen to be :—

Tuberculosis .....	47
Cancer .....	54
Cerebral Haemorrhage .....	27
Heart Disease .....	58
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases .....	70

### Death from Zymotic Diseases.

The seven principal Zymotic Diseases are Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Fever, including (Typhus, Typhoid, Paratyphoid) and Diarrhoea.

The Zymotic death-rate is sometimes regarded as a test of sanitary conditions.

This rate was high during the year, by reason of the high death-rate from Measles.

There were 22 deaths altogether from the above diseases. This gives a rate of 0.5 as compared with 0.5 in 1924, 0.3 in 1923, 0.9 in 1922 and 1.5 in 1921.

### Inquests.

There were 45 inquests held during the year as compared with 31 in 1924, 46 in 1923 and 39 in 1922.

Thirty-seven were held on the death of males and 8 on the death of females.

Ten of these were held on the deaths of persons who ordinarily resided outside the Borough.

Nine inquests were held outside the area on the deaths of persons whose ordinary place of residence was in the area. This gives a nett number of 44 deaths as belonging to the area on which inquests were held. This gives a percentage of 10.0 of the total deaths as compared with 6.9 for England and Wales.

The cause of death in each instance was as follows :—

Disease.—Heart .....	9
Brain .....	4
Uraemia .....	1
Accidents at the different works .....	7
Colliery Accidents—Fall of Roof .....	3
Run-over .....	2
Railway Accidents .....	4
Drowning—Accident .....	3
Open Verdict .....	1
Road Accidents .....	3
Burns .....	2
Suicide .....	2
Other Accidents .....	2
Other Causes .....	2

### Deaths in Institutions in the Borough.

Fifteen deaths occurred in Institutions in the area.

Nine died at the Aberavon General Hospital and 6 at the Margam Cottage Hospital.

Five of these deaths were due to accidents occurring outside.

### Deaths at Advanced Ages.

During the year 78 persons died who had reached the age of 70 and over, and of these, 30 were 80 years of age and over, while 2 had reached the advanced age of 95.

### Infantile Mortality.

The Infantile Mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths registered of infants under a year old per 1,000 births registered during the year.

Fifty-nine deaths were registered during the year coming under the above category, and of these 24 were males and 35 were females.

Included in the above are 4 deaths of illegitimate children—2 males and 2 females.

The total Infantile Mortality Rate for the year then would be 60.

The rate for legitimate children is 58, while that of illegitimate children is 173.

The Infantile Mortality rate for previous years are as follows :—1924—79, 1923—65, 1922—98 and 1921 Margam Urban District 91, Aberavon 87.

The rate for England and Wales for the year was 75, that for the 105 Large Towns and County Boroughs 79; that for the 157 Smaller Towns (Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000) 74, that for London 67.

The comparative figures of Infantile death-rates for areas of similar size and similarly situated within the county were as follows :—

Aberdare U.D.	98
Barry U.D.	81
Caerphilly U.D.	103
Gelligaer U.D.	95
Llantrisant R.D.	75
Maesteg U.D.	92
Mountain Ash U.D.	89
Neath Borough M.B.	65
Pontypridd U.D.	85
Pontardawe R.D.	59



Comparative figures of Infantile Death-rates—*Continued.*

Rhondda U.D.	96
Neath Rural	89
Penybont Rural	63
Ogmore and Garw U.D.	96
Port Talbot M.B.	60

The total rate for the Urban Districts is 87, and the total for the Rural Districts 69.

The total rate for the Administrative County is 83. Port Talbot Borough is thus seen to compare very favourably with other areas within the county.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is considered an index of the sanitary condition of a district, and also as shewing how far the efforts of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services have been productive of good results.

It is misleading to depend upon the figures of one year only for our calculation because the numbers dealt with are too small to obviate accidental errors, but a good guidance of the efficiency of results is obtained if the figures for a consecutive number of years are taken.

The rate for the year has been low because the number of deaths from respiratory diseases was a low one. The absence of severe epidemics and their complications and favourable climatic conditions—mild winter and cold summer, were conducive to a low rate.

The distribution of the births and infant deaths in the different Wards, and the Infantile Mortality rate for each Ward are as follows :—

Ward.	Births.	Infant Deaths.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
Aberavon South	285	17	52
Aberavon North	175	9	51
Cwmavon	130	9	69
Margam West	165	6	36
Margam Central	170	16	94
Margam North	41	2	48

The deaths were distributed over the year as follows :—

January	4	July	5
February	3	August	5
March	1	September	5
April	5	October	4
May	4	November	6
June	4	December	13

The deaths are distributed evenly over the year until towards the end, when climatic conditions became unfavourable and a large number of deaths from respiratory diseases occurred.

The causes of death were as follows :—

Measles .....	4
Whooping Cough .....	1
Tuberculous Meningitis .....	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis .....	1
Convulsions .....	4
Bronchitis .....	5
Pneumonia .....	8
Diarrhoea and Enteritis .....	3
Gastritis .....	9
Suffocation—Overlaying .....	1
Atelectasis .....	4
Congenital Malformation and Premature Birth .....	16
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus .....	2

For causes of death and ages at death, see Table II.

The number of deaths from respiratory diseases has been comparatively low this year as compared with previous years, while the deaths from diseases of the digestive system have been higher.

The number of deaths from congenital causes is a high one. 22 or over one-third of the deaths occurred from congenital causes, or causes over which one has no direct control. These causes are operative before the child is born and in most instances the child does not survive the first month of life. The largest number occur before the end of the first week of life.

Twenty-four deaths occurred before the child was a month old, and of these 17 died before they survived one week.

Thirty children or over one half the total did not survive three months of life.

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## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### Hospitals provided or Subsidized by the Local Authority.

The only hospital maintained by the Local Authority in the area is the Borough Fever Hospital. This consists of 40 beds, arranged in three pavilions for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever respectively. There are also, a laundry, disinfecting and drying rooms, mortuary and porter's quarters. The structure is of a temporary character, built of galvanised

sheeting lined with woodwork, on stone foundations. There is also a cottage built of stone and slate, serving as an administrative block. In this, there are four rooms. The building has been up now for thirty years, and is falling into decay, requiring a considerable amount of repairs every year. It is very exposed to the inclemency of the weather and on the exposed parts the timber is becoming decayed, so that it is difficult to renew the sheeting.

The drainage is to cesspools in the grounds.

It is supplied by water from a spring in the grounds.

It is lighted by oil lamps.

The distance and the inaccessibility of the Hospital make it very difficult of administration. The road to it is very steep and in very bad repair, making the transport of bad Diphtheria and Typhoid cases not without some risk. A horse ambulance is utilised for the transport of patients. This is kept near the Public Health Offices.

The cost of haulage is excessive. Two horses are required for each case that goes up. Coal and firewood are expensive to haul up, and the cost of provisioning the Hospital is more than it would be otherwise. During the year, one of the blocks was painted and varnished inside, and a new wire fence with concrete posts was put up around one side. During the last five years also, a considerable amount of repairs and renewals have been carried out in connection with it. It was also painted outside in 1924. Papering and painting of the administrative block was carried out during the year.

The lack of accommodation for the Staff has been pointed out year by year, and the question has been discussed several times. There are only two bedrooms available in the administrative block, and some of the domestic and nursing Staff have to sleep in the small wards.

The kitchen is much too small and inadequate to cope with the arrangements necessary, except when there are only a comparatively few patients in the Hospital.

When the place was built, the rapid increase in population and the extension of the area to be served were not anticipated. At that time the admissions would only amount to one quarter or one third of what they are at present. The Hospital is staffed by a Matron, Sister, two Nurses and two Probationers, and temporary Nurses are employed when the Hospital is full and the cases are severe or require individual attention.

The question of a new Hospital has been discussed for the last four years. Several sites have been suggested and selected. A site near Groeswen Farm was deemed by the Council to be the most suitable one. Terms could not be agreed



upon between the Authority and the Owners, and it was decided to apply for a Provisional Order to secure it by compulsory purchase.

### **Maternity Home, Maesteg.**

An arrangement has been made with the Maesteg Urban District Council, whereby maternity cases can be admitted from this area. The fee for maintenance charged to the Authority is £3 3s. 0d. per week. Sanction has been given to the Council by the Ministry of Health to give assistance to any necessitous cases. Each case is reported to the Committee and treated on its merits.

During the year, one case from the area was admitted.

Before a comprehensive Maternity and Child Welfare Service can be formed, a Maternity Home should be established in the area. This is recommended in view of the fact, chiefly, of the serious over-crowding that is present in the district. Cases are continually brought to our notice of the lack of proper facilities for the necessary arrangements at this critical period in the life of the mother and child. When the existing facilities are offered them, complaints are made that the Home is too far away.

### **Small Pox Accommodation.**

Temporary arrangements are in existence with the Swansea Borough Council to admit cases of Small Pox to their Hospital at Waunllwyd. They can only accommodate up to a certain point: they can only admit a few cases, so that if an epidemic broke out, we would have to make other arrangements.

After the new Fever Hospital is built, the old one can serve as a Small Pox Hospital. Other Authorities would be willing to come into a scheme, so that a Joint Hospital Board could be formed.

There are no hospital beds for children in the area. The Local Authority, however, has power to provide such beds for infants and children under five years of age. Cases found at the Clinics could then be treated and kept under observation. This question has to be deferred at present on account of the general shortage of hospital beds.

There is no institutional provision made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the area.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

There is a horse ambulance kept by the Local Authority for the transport of fever cases.

A motor ambulance is kept at the General Hospital. This is available for accidents or any urgent cases within the area

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

At the time of the amalgamation and extension of the Borough, there were Three Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the area—one at Aberavon, meeting fortnightly; one at Taibach, meeting fortnightly; and one at Cwmavon meeting fortnightly under the auspices of the Neath Rural District.

In 1922 the Aberavon Centre was transferred to Taibach at the Public Health Offices, to meet weekly. New premises were procured for the Cwmavon Centre at the I.L.P. Institute.

It was felt that the distance from Sandfields district to the Taibach Centre was too great and that the attendance from this district was poor, so that in March, 1924, the Aberavon Centre was re-opened with fortnightly sessions at the Zion Vestry, Clarence Street.

During the same month a new Centre was opened at Bryn with monthly sessions at the Church Hall.

At present then, there are Four Infant Welfare Centres in the Borough.

The Aberavon Centre is held fortnightly on a Wednesday, 2-4 p.m., at the Zion Vestry, Clarence Street, Aberavon. It consists of one large room which serves as a waiting room and a weighing room, and a consulting room upstairs. These were the best premises available at the time, but are not by any means suitable. The heating arrangements are inadequate and the place is generally cold in winter, making it impossible to get the children undressed for weighing. The mothers also have to go up a steep flight of stairs to the consulting room.

As has been reported previously, premises suitable for the purposes required are not easily found in the district.

The difficulty of finding suitable accommodation can only be solved by buying a house in some central part and carrying out constructional repairs for the purpose. The site should be somewhere to the south and west of the Great Western Railway line.

These premises could then be utilised as a School Clinic recommended for the district as well as a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

CWMAVON CENTRE.—This is held fortnightly at the I.L.P. Institute, Depot Road. The stage serves as a waiting room and weighing room, and a small ante-room as a consulting room.

These premises are not all that can be desired for the purpose. The place is very cold and draughty during winter, making it impossible to undress the children.

**BRYN CENTRE.**—This is at the Church Hall. The body of the Hall is screened off for consulting purposes, and the infants are weighed on the stage. A paraffin stove is utilised for heating purposes. The parents wait in an ante-room where there is an open fire.

These premises are cold in winter and not adequately heated, the heating apparatus being out of order. It was found impossible to find any more suitable premises. The Centre is open 10-12 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month.

**TAIBACH CENTRE.**—This is at the Public Health Offices. During the year, alterations were carried out at the above in order to establish Dental and Ophthalmic Clinics for the School Medical Service, so that now there is a large spacious waiting room, a small weighing room and a capacious consulting room. The premises are well lighted and heated.

The Centre is open weekly, on Thursday afternoons, 2-4 p.m.

### **School Clinics.**

**DENTAL CLINIC.**—There is a Dental Clinic at the Public Health Department, open on three days a week—Monday Tuesday and Wednesday.

**OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.**—There is an Ophthalmic Clinic at the Public Health Department which will meet weekly, or as necessary.

**MINOR AILMENT CLINIC.**—The Minor Ailment Clinic is also held at the Public Health Department and meets twice a week—on Monday and Friday mornings, 9-12 a.m.

### **Tuberculosis Visiting Station.**

There is a weekly attendance of the Tuberculosis Officer of the area at the Drill Hall on Wednesday morning.

### **Venereal Diseases Clinic.**

This is maintained by the County Council and is situated near the Great Western Station. It is open on Mondays and Tuesdays for males and on Fridays for females.

### **Professional Nursing in the Home.**

There are no arrangements made by the Local Authority for nursing general or infectious diseases in the home.

### **Midwives.**

There are no midwives employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.

The number of midwives practising in the area is as follows :—

Trained .....	18
Un-trained .....	8

The Local Supervising Authority for the area is the Glamorgan County Council.

### Chemical and Bacteriological Work.

Arrangements have been made with the Committee of the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff, for carrying out the necessary work in connection with the Sanitary Department generally, and also with the Beck Laboratory, Swansea, for the bacteriological examination of milk under the Milk and Dairies Act. Payment in each case is made according to a scale agreed upon.

The work includes :—

Examination of Diphtheria Swabs.

Examination of Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli.

Examination of Blood and Cerebro Spinal Fluid in cases of Typhoid Fever, Malaria, Meningococcal Meningitis, etc.

Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological Examination of samples of water.

Examination of Milk for Tubercle Bacilli and Bacillus Coli and bacterial counts.

A stock of Diphtheria Swabs, Sputum Outfits and Vidal Test Outfits is kept at the Public Health Department, and these are supplied to the Medical Attendant of the case as required. This convenience is generally appreciated, especially when Diphtheria is prevalent, as doubtful cases can then be diagnosed with accuracy.

The following is an analysis of the work done by the Laboratory :—

Examination of Diphtheria Swabs .....	66
Of these 9 were positive.	
Examination of Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli .....	32
Of these 8 were positive.	
Examination of Milk for Tubercle Bacilli and Bacterial Count .....	6
Chemical Analysis of Water .....	9
Bacteriological Examination of Water .....	16
Examination of Milk for Bacterial Count and Bacillus Coli Organisms .....	6

### Diphtheria Antitoxin Order, 1910.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners for use of patients who reside within the Borough. This convenience is widely made use of and is generally appreciated. Success in the treatment of this disease depends upon its early detection and the administration of an adequate dose of antitoxin. The incidence of serious complications is also obviated to a large extent by the prompt use of antitoxin, and it has been found also, that these measures in laryngeal cases, prevent the necessity for tracheotomy often.

### Legislation in Force.

The following adoptive acts relating to Public Health are in force in the District :—

Infectious Disease Prevention Act (1890) became operative 9th November, 1921.

Public Health Acts, Amendment Act (1890) became operative 9th November, 1921.

Private Street Works Act (1892) became operative 9th November, 1921.

Public Health Acts, Amendment Act (1907) became operative 9th November, 1921.

Public Health Act (1925) became operative 1926.

Byelaws have been framed to regulate the following :—

Offensive Trades, became operative 9th November, 1921.

Nuisances, became operative 9th November, 1921.

Cleansing of footways and pavements, the removal of house refuse and the cleansing of earth closets, privies, ashpits and cesspools, became operative 9th November, 1921.

Common Lodging Houses, became operative 9th Nov., 1921.

Seamen's Lodging Houses, became operative 9th Nov., 1921.

Slaughterhouses, became operative 20th April, 1926.

New Regulations were made under the D.C.M.O. which became operative on March 26th, 1924.

### Summary Proceedings.

#### (1) STRUCTURAL DEFECTS.

17, 22, and 24, Mabel St., Aberavon.	Works executed after two adjournments of cases. De-
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12, & 18, Cornwall Street, Aberavon.	fendants to pay costs.
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20, Mabel St., Aberavon.	Order granted after 2 ad- journments. Defendant to pay costs,
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## SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS.—Continued.

## (2) UNSOUND FOOD.

Samuel Dolbear.

8 summonses for possession of unsound beef for sale. £40 and costs.

Arthur Watkiss.

2 summonses for possession of diseased organs for sale. Defendant given benefit of doubt as to whether organs were intended for food, and case dismissed.

Daniel Davies.

Exposure for sale of diseased pig's head. £2 and costs.

Star Supply Tea Company.

Sale of unsound bacon. £5 and costs.

## (3) PUBLIC HEALTH MEAT REGULATIONS.

Arthur Watkiss.

2 summonses.

George James.

2 summonses.

D. S. Jones.

1 summons.

{ First cases. Dismissed on payment of costs.

Slaughtering without notice. £2 and costs.

## (4) SLAUGHTERING ON UNLICENSED PREMISES.

W. Thomas.

£1 and costs.

D. S. Jones.

£2 and costs.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF AREA.

## Water Supply.

The water supply of the area did not give rise to so much anxiety during last year as in previous years. Climatic conditions were more favourable in that rain fell during more opportune times. During the summer months the supply had to be cut off for sometime during the day at several periods.

Several industries in the area were working short time or closed down, with the consequence that less water was consumed.

No extension of the service took place with the exception of that necessary for housing developments in the area.

Extensions were carried out in the Aberavon area and along the Margam Road.

The supply to all areas is constant, except when there is shortage during dry periods. Water is laid on to each house for the most part—only a few instances existing where stand-pipes are in use. The majority of these are in Cwmavon, but

these are abolished as progress is being made with the water carriage system of drainage. The hamlet of Mynydd Bychan is also supplied by means of a few standpipes. There are a few also in Oakwood.

The different supplies have been fully reported on in previous reports during the last four years.

No extension of the supplies has taken place during the last five years. The Cwmawr supply has been abandoned for the time being on account of colliery pollution, and the proximity of the gathering ground, to a populous area. Before it should be again used, the water should be piped up to its source, or filtration should be provided.

The Corporation well was only used for four days during the year, during very dry weather. Adverse reports have continually been given on this, and the Ministry of Health has objected to its being used for domestic supply.

The Celluloid well was not used during the year. During the last five years, a man has been appointed to patrol and protect the catchment areas.

A new tank has been built at Oakwood and springs from the vicinity piped to it.

The main was extended from Swan Street, Briton Ferry, to the Baglan Schools.

In 1923, the mains were extended from Pentyla to Baglan Church to meet developments in this area.

New mains are necessary in certain districts in Cwmavon, in order to proceed with the conversion of pail closets into water closets. At present, these districts are being supplied by means of standpipes in the streets and the mains are too small for providing a sufficient water supply for each house. This was recommended last year, but so far, nothing has been done.

The Lletty Harry tank has been fenced in.

The general supply has been improved by the re-organisation and co-ordination of the different supplies, so that the Cwmgwineu and Cwmgwernderi supplies are supplying the Port Talbot area and Velindre, as well as augmenting the supply from Ynysygwas Reservoir to Aberavon.

The Borough has undertaken to take a supply of water from Ystradfellte for parts of Cwmavon, and fourteen million gallons were taken during the year. This is in accordance with the Extension Order.

The Borough is under contract to take a minimum supply of twenty million gallons, and a maximum supply of forty million gallons into Ynysygwas reservoir for the supply of Aberavon, on 180 consecutive days, from April 1st in any year and practically the maximum supply was taken during the year.

All the water is got from catchment areas and is liable to pollution. None of the water is filtered. An effort is made to watch all the areas as closely as possible to prevent pollution.

The water question is going to be a critical one in future on account of the rapid development of the area.

It is proposed now to employ the services of an expert engineer to report on the question, and to see how far the present services can be extended without going outside the area for supply.

Small extensions are taking place by taking in a quantity of water from a spring at the Constant, Taibach. A large quantity is taken in from springs at Tynewydd, Baglan, also and in the same manner from Cwm-y-Geifr, Margam. A large portion goes to waste at Cwmgwineu, and a recommendation has been made for the last two years to pipe the stream and the construction of a small dam in the valley on the right hand side. This expedient would increase the supply, prevent pollution and increase the pressure in the mains.

During the year 9 samples of water were submitted for chemical analysis, and 11 samples for bacteriological examination.

<i>Source.</i>	<i>RESULTS.</i>	
	<i>Chemical.</i>	<i>Bacteriological.</i>
Tap—Aberavon Market.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.
Tap—Health Department.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.
Tap—Groes School.	—	Fairly Satisfactory.
Tap—Gwar-y-Caeau Cottages.	—	Satisfactory.
Tap—Station Terrace, Bryn.	—	Satisfactory.
Spring—Constant, Taibach.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.
Tap—Oakwood Supply.	Satisfactory.	Fairly Satisfactory.
Tap—Rhiwfelin.	—	Satisfactory.
Cwm Mawr Supply.	—	Moderate bacterial purity.
Cwm Mawr Service Tank.	—	Satisfactory.
Well—Water St., Aberavon.	Moderate organic purity.	Satisfactory.
Well—Water St., Aberavon.	No evidence of contamination.	—
Tap—Oakwood Supply.	—	Of doubtful purity.
Tap—Bryn Supply.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.
Tap—Aberavon Town Supply.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.
Tap—Council Offices.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.
Tap—Ynysygwas Supply.	—	Satisfactory.
Tap—Oakwood Supply.	—	Satisfactory.



The results shown, point to the fact that the water on the whole, maintains a satisfactory degree of purity.

The coli content of the Oakwood Supply was found to be high once, but on investigation, no cause could be found for it and ultimately a satisfactory degree of purity was established.

An effort is always made to find the source of contamination when an adverse report is received.

### **RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

The two rivers that run through the area are polluted by colliery effluents, foul effluents from settling tanks, by slop water and by the indiscriminate dumping of house refuse along their banks and into them.

The River Afan receives colliery effluents before it reaches the boundary. Along its course in the area, it receives the effluents from the Oakwood tank and the Ynysygwas filters. A large amount of slop water also is poured into it from Mynydd Bychan and Cwmavon.

These conditions can be improved only by connecting up the Oakwood and Ynysygwas sewerage to the Glyncoirwg Sewer, and the conversion of all the pail closets in Cwmavon into water closets, and the draining of all the slop water into the sewers.

The River Ffrwdwyllt is polluted by effluents from the Bryn and Cwmgwineu Colliery, and foul effluents from the Bryn Farm. The latter condition cannot be remedied until the Bryn sewerage has been connected up with the Celluloid sewer, but a measure of improvement would take place if the recommendations with regard to the management of the sewage farm and repairs were carried out.

The nuisance arising from the pollution of these rivers is not so much in evidence during the winter months when there is an abundant flow of water as during the summer months when they run practically dry. It is then that they become a menace to health and the source of continual complaints.

### **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

No extension of the sewerage system has taken place during the year, except to meet the demands of the building operations carried on in the Sandfields district and Margam district. Considerable trouble was found during the year again with some of the sewers at the bottom of Sandfields. The levels are low and in many places the sewers are defective. Work is proceeding now with the relaying of some of these with

true levels and the provision of flushing tanks. Alfred Street and Angel Street have been dealt with. The sewerage of Baglan has not yet been proceeded with, although active building operations are going on here. New buildings have to be provided with cesspools which is not a sanitary proposition in a populous area.

The sewerage system in Cwmavon has now been completed for about two years. The connecting up of the drainage systems with the sewers has not been carried out as expeditiously as one would desire. During the year, about 100 systems were altogether dealt with. Since the commencement 450 systems have been connected up. In some of the areas, work cannot be proceeded with because the supply of water is insufficient for flushing purposes; new mains being necessary to carry the necessary volume.

In other cases, work cannot be proceeded with because the leaseholders or owners are not financially able to bear the cost of conversion, and are waiting for the Local Authority to take action when the expenses incurred will be defrayed by a private improvement rate.

Until these two obstacles have been surmounted, little further progress can be anticipated. The delay is deprecated because removal of night soil is not at any time sanitary, but when there is a difficulty in disposing of it as there is here it becomes a menace to public health. At present the night soil is buried in the refuse tip and complaints are received that the nuisance from its smell and from flies is intolerable in summer.

To mitigate the existing evil, the night soil should be carried away and trenched in a loamy soil when it becomes innocuous in a few months. So far, only about one-third of the dwellings of Cwmavon have been connected to the sewerage system, so that the nuisance arising, is a very real one.

### **Bryn Sewage Farm.**

The condition of this was very unsatisfactory during the whole of the year. It was nothing but a big cesspool, and sewage was poured into the river in a crude state. All the tanks were out of order and the grips and channels were in a state of disrepair. Recommendations were made so that the nuisance arising could be abated to a certain extent. The only absolute remedy is to connect this up with the Dyffryn Valley Sewer; a recommendation which has been given several times.

Some improvement has taken place by the cleaning out of the tanks with greater regularity and the repair of the channels and grips. The land has also been ploughed up. Even now, foul effluent flows into the stream. Further im-

provement in the condition could take place by carting some of the screened house refuse down to level the ground up and make it more porous, by also repairing and renewing all the channels and grips, and by extending the area for irrigation.

A filter tank should be provided at the end of the system to deal with any surplus effluent before it gets to the river.

The condition of the drainage and sewerage of the rest of the area remains as reported upon in previous reports. Nuisance still arises in connection with the sewerage of Oakwood, especially during the summer when the river runs dry. Recommendations have been made to connect up this with the Glynecorrwg Sewer.

The effluent from the Ynysygwas coke filters runs into the River Afan ultimately. Recommendations have also been made to connect up this with the Glynecorrwg Sewer.

During the last five years, the only extension that has taken place, is the provision of new sewers to meet building developments and the two chief areas where this has occurred are at Sandfields and Margam. Only a small proportion of the old sewers have been relaid, a few hundred yards at the back of Vivian Terrace and at the back of Alfred Street.

A totally new sewerage system was put in, in Cwmavon, also during this period.

All new drainage and old drainage relaid is inspected and supervised by the Sanitary Inspector. Tests are always applied to ensure that no trouble will arise in the future. A considerable amount of the Inspector's time is spent in this part of the work, but it is found that it is economical in the long run.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

Nearly the whole of the Borough is on the water carriage system, and the only parts where the old pail system is in existence are in Cwmavon—where there are about 800 houses not yet connected—the Rural parts of Baglan and Margam. In the two latter, no alternative method would be feasible.

Along Baglan Road, all the new houses are drained to cesspools. When the sewerage system is complete, these will be done away with, and the drainage connected to the sewer.

All new houses are provided with cesspools where a sewerage system is not available.

### **SCAVENGING.**

No improvement can be reported in the deposit, collection and removal of house refuse in the area. Complaints are being made that the refuse is not removed regularly. The refuse

is deposited on tips which are too near human habitations, and complaints are made of the stench arising from them and the prevalence of flies during the summer. The tip at the old Fairfield and the tip at Tymaen in Cwmavon were the chief sources of complaint. Recommendations were made to discontinue tipping at the Fairfield and to carry the refuse further out on the moors, but this was not carried out during the greater part of the year.

The nuisance could be mitigated to a large extent if greater care were exercised in the management of the tip. At present, the face of the tip always looks untidy by reason of the tins, papers, garbage, etc., being littered about. In order to prevent unsightliness and to create as little nuisance as possible, the tipping surface at the edge of the tip should be kept as narrow as possible, all the tins and old iron should be collected and pressed and a ready sale could be had for it. All the paper and the combustible material should be burned. In this way the face of the tip could be kept tidy, and the area of exposure of fresh refuse could be reduced. The deposit and collection of the refuse is very unsatisfactory, especially in some parts of the area. The back streets and lanes are simply littered with refuse and large dumps are seen in some places. No improvement can take place here until every owner is compelled to provide a suitable ashbin.

At present, the refuse in many instances is simply deposited in the back lane and left to accumulate there.

The present system of horse drawn, open carts should be done away with, and covered motor vans substituted. Considerable saving in time and energy could be effected, and the refuse could be disposed of more speedily and with much less nuisance.

The Local Authority undertakes to remove the night soil in the Cwmavon area. This at present is collected at night and buried in the tips. A more sanitary proposition as has been suggested, is to plough or trench it into a suitable loamy soil.

In isolated houses, the night soil is buried in the garden or in a convenient piece of land.

### **SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**

The following is a summary of the Annual Report of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year, classified as required :—

## SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

	Inspections.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
House to House Inspections.....	402	—	—	—	31 houses provided with shoots, 32 shoots repaired, 60 roofs repaired, 8 chimneys repaired, 26 grates repaired, 7 new grates fixed, 8 new ovens fixed, 1 washing boiler fixed, 3 washing boilers repaired, 1 new lead gutter provided, 12 new windows fixed, 39 windows repaired, 8 new doors fixed, 19 doors repaired, 6 stairs repaired, 5 boundary walls repaired, 4 garden gates repaired, 2 hearths repaired, 32 new floors laid, 28 floors repaired, 3 spaces under floors concreted, 33 walls and ceilings re-plastered, 8 dilapidated walls re-built, 4 pine ends cemented, 18 walls rendered damp-proof, 2 skirtings repaired.
Other House Inspections .....	1783	—	—	—	
(a) Structural Defects .....	691	250	247	209	
(b) Foul Conditions .....	691	212	206	46	153 systems of drains cleared, 3 dirty houses cleansed, 12 offensive ditches cleaned out, 12 waste pipes repaired, 2 decomposing carcases buried.



## Summary of Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
(c) Overcrowding .....	—	—	—	—	4 houses generally repaired.
(d) Unfit for Habitation .....	53	6	5	—	
Schools .....	156	14	14	—	4 w.c.'s. repaired, 4 flushing tanks repaired, 1 waste pipe repaired, 2 drains cleared, 1 ditch cleaned out, 1 urinal spray pipe repaired, 4 w.c. ranges cleansed and limewashed.
Ashpits, Privies & Cesspools	1106	358	182	182	105 systems of drains provided, 105 privies abolished, 6 new pails provided, 2 privies cleansed, 5 cesspools cleaned out.
Stables, Refuse & Manure .....	472	36	36	1	18 accumulations of manure removed, 1 incinerator erected, 1 insanitary erection removed, 2 dung pits erected, 4 nuisances from burning of offal discontinued.
Pigstyes and Swinekeeping .....	89	14	14	2	10 nuisances from improper keeping of swine abated, 7 nuisances from improper keeping of hog-wash abated.

## Summary of Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
Animals Improperly Kept .....	24	8	8	—	14 nuisances from improper keeping of poultry abated.
Other Nuisances .....	135	11	11	—	
Slaughterhouses .....	231	3	3	—	1 drain repaired, 1 water supply repaired, 1 accumulation of offal removed.
Meat and Food .....	868	—	—	—	The following articles of food were destroyed :— 2,372lbs. of meat, 84lbs. of fish, 82 rabbits, 103 tins of foodstuffs and miscellaneous other foods enumerated in the report.
Cowsheds and Dairies .....	321	55	55	1	10 new floors laid, 11 cowsheds drained, 6 cowsheds lighted and ventilated, 6 sheds provided with stalls and mangers, 4 water supplies laid on, 17 cowsheds and dairies linewashed, 1 water tank cleaned out and covered, 10 accumulations of manure removed, 1 dairy provided, 1 offence from

## Summary of Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
Cowsheds & Dairies— <i>Continued</i>					
Water Supplies .....	1304	201	199	57	<p>dirty milking pails abated, 1 offence from improper storage of milk, covered pails provided in 18 instances, 3 offences from unclean udders abated.</p> <p>6 water supplies laid on, 27 water services re-laid, 68 water services repaired, 54 new flushing tanks fixed, 62 flushing tanks repaired, 1 tank cleaned out.</p>
Drains, Yards, & W.C's. ....	5724	605	421	336	<p>119 houses provided with drainage systems, 17 systems re-laid, 28 w.c's. re-constructed, 82 w.c's. repaired, 173 w.c's. provided with tanks, 62 tanks repaired, 30 slop closets converted to w.c's., 5 vent shafts provided, 4 vent shafts repaired, 6 inspection chambers provided, 1 drain removed from inside of house, 8 subsoil drains provided, 19 yards repaved, 3 yards repaired.</p>
Infectious Diseases .....	300	—	—	—	137 rooms and 123 parcels of bedding disinfected.



## Summary of Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
Workshops .....	175	13	13	4	Sanitary accommodation provided in 2 cases, 2 urinals repaired, 1 sanitary convenience repaired, 3 w.c.'s. cleansed and limewashed, 7 w.c.'s. repaired, artificial light provided in 2 cases, 2 drains cleared, privacy secured in 1 case, 1 urinal range provided, 2 floors drained, 1 automatic tank fixed, door fastenings provided in 1 case, 2 roofs repaired, 2 refuse accumulations removed.
Bakehouses .....	75	10	10	4	6 bakehouses limewashed, 3 bakehouses cleansed, 1 motor removed from bakehouse, benches provided in 1 case, proper storage for fuel provided in 2 cases, 1 floor re-laid, 1 w.c. repaired.
Common Lodging Houses .....	32	4	4	—	2 houses cleansed.
Offensive Trades .....	48	6	6	1	2 receptacles provided, 1 chimney provided, 1 fish-shop range and premises cleansed.

Summary of Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work done.
Cinemas .....	24	4	4	—	
Housing, Town Planning Inspections and Re-inspections	98	—	—	—	
Totals .....	15193	1810	1438	843	

## **SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

No action was taken by the Local Authority with a view to the abatement of nuisance from smoke.

Nuisance is caused by pollution of the air by smoke and grit from the Port Talbot Steel Works.

Considerable nuisance has also been caused by fumes from the coke ovens at Taibach, although this is not now so pronounced.

The smoke nuisance is accentuated during the spring and summer months when the prevailing winds blow the smoke and grit towards the land.

The town has been free from its usual pall of smoke during the greater part of the year, because the furnaces have been partly or wholly closed down.

## **PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.**

### **Cinemas and Amusement Houses.**

Seven of these are licensed in the Borough. They are visited once a year by the Cinema Committee and Officers concerned before being licensed. Periodical visits of inspection are paid during the year. All the defects found were remedied and their condition was found to be generally satisfactory.

During the last five years, the Grand Theatre was re-constructed and fitted up on modern lines. The Public Hall has been re-constructed also.

### **Common Lodging Houses.**

There are 7 Common Lodging Houses on the register, providing accommodation for 206 lodgers. Periodical inspections are made. The nuisances found were remedied. The general condition as to cleanliness were on the whole satisfactory.

### **Offensive Trades.**

The number of offensive trades registered in the area during the year was 41. All of these were carrying on fish and chip frying, except 3 which were Marine Store Dealers.

During the year 5 were removed from and 8 added to the register.

There is a rapid growth in the number of fish and chip fryers and to prevent the trade becoming a nuisance, some method of restriction should be adopted.

All new premises are inspected before being passed as suitable to go on the register, and periodical inspections are paid subsequently. It is found that the requirements of the Byelaws are being carried out, and the general conditions are satisfactory.

### **Swine Keeping and the Keeping of Animals.**

Considerable difficulty was met during the last five years in carrying out the requirements of the Byelaw with reference to the distance of a pigstye from a dwelling house. There is reason to believe that there are no pigstyes now in the Borough within the statutory limit. Several nuisances were found during the year, but were remedied on serving an Informal Notice.

### **Slaughter-Houses.**

There are on the register this year again 6 licensed slaughter-houses, together with the Public Abbatoir. The question of a new Municipal Abbatoir has been reported on now for the fourth time and no progress can be reported with the furtherance of the scheme. Sites have been inspected but no definite issue has evolved. The difficulty of proper meat inspection with the multiplicity of slaughter-houses and an inadequate staff has been pointed out several times. It is impossible to carry out the object of the Public Health Meat Regulations to a satisfactory degree, because although notification of slaughter is carried out, the Inspectors are not able to devote the necessary time to inspect all the meat.

The premises are also too small and inconvenient to carry out a proper examination of all the animals killed there.

Inspections are carried out as often as time will permit, and it is found that they are kept in a satisfactory state of cleanliness, and that the quality of the meat killed is on the whole good.

Two instances of slaughtering on unlicensed premises were discovered. Proceedings were taken and convictions registered.

### **Factories and Workshops.**

The duties devolving upon the Sanitary Authority and its officials have been carried out in connection with the Factories and Workshops Act.

At the end of the year, there were on the register 175 workshops, while during the year 1 new workshop was added to the register and 2 were removed.

The premises were registered as follows :—

Blacksmiths .....	8	Printers .....	5
Bottling Works .....	1	Plumbers .....	8
Boat Builders .....	1	Rag Sorters .....	3
Carpenters and Joiners .....	12	Stone Dressers .....	3
Cabinet Makers .....	5	Shoemakers & Repairers .....	17
Chemical Works .....	2	Sugar Boilers .....	2
Cycle Repairers .....	3	Sausage Manufacturers .....	7
Coach & Motor Builders .....	6	Stocking Making .....	1
Dressmakers .....	5	Saddlers .....	1
Dyers and Cleaners .....	1	Tailors .....	9
Flannel Making .....	1	Wagon Repairers .....	1
Hay and Corn Stores .....	2	Weight and Scale Makers .....	1
Ice Cream Manufacturers .....	6	Wheelwrights .....	2
Laudidries .....	2	Wood Choppers .....	1
Milliners .....	10	Bakehouses .....	31
Painters .....	4		

All these are periodically inspected and any nuisances or contravention of the Acts are dealt with. A good sanitary standard is maintained.

### **Bakehouses.**

The 31 bakehouses are regularly inspected and an effort is made to see that there is no contravention of the Bye-laws. There is a satisfactory standard of cleanliness in all cases.

### **Schools.**

The sanitary condition of the Elementary Schools has been fully reported upon in the School Medical Officer's Report. The water supply is adequate in all cases, and the sanitary arrangements are satisfactory in all the schools.

All the Elementary Schools are inspected by the School Medical Officer at the time of inspection, and all defects are reported to the Education Officer.

The Sanitary Inspectors also pay visits to all the schools in the area and report to the responsible Authority.

The action taken to prevent the spread of infectious disease has also been reported on in the School Medical Officer's Report, and in each case the recommendations given by the Memorandum of the Board are carried out.

## **DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.**

The only facilities for disinfection and disinfestation of clothing, etc., at our disposal are at the Borough Fever Hospital. The inaccessibility of this, makes the procedure an expensive one,

The clothing and bed linen from tuberculous cases and bad Diphtheria cases are taken up to be disinfected in the disinfecter at the Fever Hospital.

Premises from which cases of infectious disease are notified are disinfected after removal of the case or after recovery by fumigation. Premises where there has been a tuberculous case are similarly disinfected.

## HOUSING.

The Housing conditions in the area has been somewhat relieved, although the shortage is still acute. The immigration into the area during the year was not so high as in previous years as shown by the increase in population in each year.

The number of houses built during the year did not suffice much more than to provide for the natural increase of the population, so that a large portion of the population still live under over-crowded conditions. No exact figures can be given, but the conditions are seen when inspections are made by the Staff of the Public Health Department.

The area where over-crowding is most prevalent is in the Sandfields district, where the number of houses occupied by more than one family is a high one.

The economic conditions due to industrial depression prevents a large number of occupiers from taking advantage of the Housing and Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts. The only means of housing the latter is by building houses to let by the Local Authority.

A number of houses have been condemned and closed, but alternative accommodation cannot be found for the occupiers. A large number more are in a very unsatisfactory sanitary state, but it is futile to try and close them for the same reason. The quality of the houses built was satisfactory, and full advantage was taken of the subsidy. Altogether 162 houses were subsidised in accordance with the Acts, and of these 12 were built by the Local Authority.

It has not been found possible to carry out housing inspections under the 1910 Regulations by reason of shortage of Staff. This is to be deprecated because it is only by systematised inspections that the exact needs of the Borough in the matter of housing with regard to sufficiency and quality can be arrived at.



The number of houses built and occupied since 1921 are as follows :—

1921	.....	135
1922	.....	167
1923	.....	48
1924	.....	138
1925	.....	187
		<hr/>
		675
		<hr/>

A large amount of repairs has been carried out during the year, and a big proportion of these were completed upon the service of a Formal Notice.

It was only in the case of 6 houses that court proceedings had to be taken.

#### NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Total—including numbers given separately under (b) .....	187
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority .....	12
(ii) By other bodies or persons .....	160

#### 1.—Unfit Dwelling Houses.

(1) Inspection.—Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	2384
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	6
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	813

#### 2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .....	391
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### 3.—Action under Statutory Powers.

#### A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil.

#### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	269
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	167
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

#### C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit.....	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

### MILK SUPPLY.

The improvement in the standard of cleanliness of the Milk Supply has been maintained during the year. The new Regulations which came into force during the previous year were enforced, with the result, that considerable improvements were carried out in the housing of cattle. Repairs and reconstructions were carried out in several of the cowsheds during the year.

The main points arrived at in re-construction are the removal of the old flooring of cobbled paving and its substitution by an impermeable one, made of concrete with proper channelling for drainage and easy cleansing, sufficient cubic space, sufficient lighting and ventilation, adequate water supplies, facilities for storing milk and proper cleansing of the milk utensils.

The following farms were dealt with during the year :--

Penhyddwaelod Farm.  
Tydu Farm, Margam.  
Cwmbrombil Farm.  
Dyffryn Mill Farm.

The Regulations made under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders, will be revoked when the new Orders come into force in July. The latter are more comprehensive and give more power to Local Authorities to enforce cleanliness in the production and retail of milk.

The control of the quality of the milk comes under the Authority, under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act, which is the County Council.

During the year 44 samples of new milk were taken and proceedings were instituted in 9 cases for selling milk deficient in butter fat and for containing added water, 8 convictions were obtained and 1 case was dismissed; the aggregate fines amounting to £33 0s. 0d.

In addition to the above, the following samples were taken under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts :—

Butter .....	6 samples
Lard .....	3 „
Margarine .....	3 „
Preserved Cream .....	1 sample
Sponge Cake .....	1 „
Cocoa .....	1 „
Self Raising Flour .....	1 „
Baking Powder .....	1 „
Pepper .....	1 „
Coffee .....	1 „
Condensed Milk .....	1 „
Jam .....	1 „
Beer .....	1 „
Vinegar .....	1 „

In none of these cases was there an infringement of the Act.

The County Police take samples of milk for bacteriological examination for Tuberculosis, and action will be taken by the County Council if necessary.

If any tuberculous cattle are suspected, a report is sent to the County Veterinary Inspector who deals with them in accordance with the Acts.

There are in the area 74 persons registered as producers of milk and 75 as retailers of milk. Of the 75 retailers, 42 are also producers of milk.

All the dairies, cowsheds and milkshops are regularly visited and conditions are generally satisfactory.

A large portion of the milk produced in the Borough is sold outside. This is to be regretted because this has to be made up by imported milk which is not under our direct control.

The bulk of imported milk comes from West Wales and the West of England.

There is in the area one producer and retailer of Grade A. Milk who is licensed by the County Council.

There is one retailer of Pasteurized Milk licensed by this Authority. The plant in use is of the "holder" type which is in accordance with the Orders.

Six samples of milk were taken by the County Police for bacteriological examination for Tuberculosis, for bacterial counts and for estimating the bacillus coli content of the milk.

No tubercle bacilli were found in any of these, and the bacterial counts and coli contents were satisfactory in the case of two only.

In 2 the total organisms were high and the coli content unsatisfactory.

In 1 the bacillus coli content was high.

In 1 the total organisms are low, but the bacillus coli content was high.

All these cases were investigated by the Sanitary Inspectors with a view to finding whether the handling and storage of the milk was satisfactory.

Six samples were also taken by the Sanitary Inspectors for estimating the coli content and bacterial count.

The results were very satisfactory, except in the case of 2, where the coli content was too high and the general standard of cleanliness was very low respectively.

Both of these cases were investigated and dealt with.

## MEAT INSPECTION.

Notification of slaughter is carried out on the whole satisfactorily, and inspection of the meat is carried out at the time of slaughter as far as time will allow. It is a matter of impossibility to inspect all the meat that is being killed, with an inadequate Staff and multiplicity of slaughter places.

The quality of the meat is on the whole good, and it was only on three occasions, that proceedings had to be taken for contravention of the Laws with regard to unsound and diseased meat.

Stores, stalls and shops are regularly inspected, and made to comply with the Meat Regulations.

The number of slaughterhouses licensed in January and December, 1925, was 6. The Municipal Abbatoir is leased to Mr. Watkiss who sublets it to other butchers in the town.

Other foods are also systematically inspected in shops, stores, etc., and a large quantity was surrendered or condemned during the year.

In only one instance were proceedings taken and that for the sale of unsound bacon, when a fine of £5 0s. 0d. and costs was inflicted.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The experience in this area during the year was that there was a steady diminution in the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases. The year 1925 was in the trough of the wave of periodicity, as it was found that towards the end, an increased prevalence occurred both in Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. This has been maintained so far in 1926.

The diminished prevalence can be observed when the figures for the five year period are taken.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Scarlet Fever	*169	114	53	49	36
Diphtheria	152	67	61	38	62

\*Including 3 cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

The figures for 1921 do not include notifications from the Michaelstone Lower area, which are not available.

In 1925 only 29 cases of Diphtheria had been notified up till the end of November, and it was on December 1st that it assumed epidemic proportions.

We are evidently confronted with an increasing prevalence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria for the next year or so. These diseases have cycles of periodicity with an increased and diminished prevalence.

### Scarlet Fever.

36 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year which shows that the area has been very free from the disease as compared with previous years. This gives an attack rate of 0.82 per 1,000 as compared with 1.1 in 1924, 1.25 in 1923 and 2.73 in 1922. The attack rate for England and Wales was 2.23. Of the 36, 29 were removed to hospital. Included in the above is 1 case of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

The seasonal incidence of the disease was as follows :—

January	1
February	1
March	3
April	2
May	3
June	1
July	2
August	6
September	1
October	6
November	4
December	6

The number of houses affected was 31.

There were 26 houses with 1 case in each, and 5 houses with 2 cases each.

There were no return cases of Scarlet Fever during the year.

The distribution of the cases in the different Wards was as follows :—

Aberavon South Ward	5
Aberavon North Ward	2
Cwmavon Ward	1
Margam West Ward	13
Margam Central Ward	7
Margam North Ward	8

An analysis of the ages of the persons attacked is as follows :—

yrs. 0-1	yrs. 1-2	yrs. 2-3	yrs. 3-4	yrs. 4-5	yrs. 5-10	yrs. 10-15	yrs. 15-35	yrs. 35+
0	1	2	6	3	14	3	6	1

### Diphtheria.

62 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, and of these less than half had been notified up to December 1st.

This gives an attack rate of 1.4 as compared with 0.8 in 1924, 1.4 in 1923 and 1.6 in 1922. The attack rate for England and Wales was 1.23. 53 of the above cases were removed to hospital for isolation and treatment. 1 of these was removed to Bridgend Hospital.

The number of houses affected was 49, there being 38 houses with 1 case each, 9 houses with 2 cases each, and 2 houses with 3 cases each.

The distribution of the cases in the area was as follows :

Aberavon South Ward .....	8
Aberavon North Ward .....	11
Cwmavon Ward .....	0
Margam West Ward .....	2
Margam Central Ward .....	3
Margam North Ward .....	38

The seasonal incidence of the disease was as follows :—

January .....	4
February .....	2
March .....	2
April .....	2
May .....	2
June .....	1
July .....	8
August .....	0
September .....	1
October .....	1
November .....	7
December .....	32

The age distribution of the cases was as follows :—

yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.
0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-35	35+
1	2	7	5	21	13	7	4	2

From the above distribution, it is seen that the incidence of the disease falls heaviest on the child under 5—36 cases occurring before the child had arrived at that age, while 49 out of the 62 occurred in children under 10.

In the majority of instances, as soon as there is any doubt about the case, an injection of antitoxin is given. Advantage of the supply provided by the Local Authority under the Antitoxin Order 1919, is taken.

There was only one death during the year and this case was complicated also by Scarlet Fever.



The foregoing Tables show the large number of cases in December, and also the large number from the Margam North Ward.

Up to the end of November, only 7 cases had been notified from Bryn; while during December, 32 cases were notified. An epidemic had occurred in the Maesteg district during the preceding three months and undoubtedly, one would expect infection carried, since there is a close community of interest between the two places.

The epidemic at Bryn was preceded by an increased prevalence of Influenza and sore throats, and as a result of this state of lowered resistance due to the inflamed condition of the throat, a suitable breeding ground for the Diphtheria germ was formed.

The school was kept under observation and any contacts with cases were specially examined, swabs being taken of their throats. A search was made for carriers also.

The milk supplies were all investigated and all those who had to do with the production and distribution of milk were examined clinically, and swabs were taken of their throats. All the results were negative. The condition became serious enough by the third week in December, that it was deemed advisable not to re-open the school after the Christmas vacation. All the churches were circularised, and were asked not to hold Sunday Schools. Other organisations were also asked not to hold meetings, such as socials, dances, etc. The Library was also closed for the time being. Leaflets with instructions on precautionary measures were delivered at every house and posters were put up in public places.

The epidemic abated on or about the 14th of January, and up till then, 49 cases had been notified. From that date until the end of February, only 3 cases were notified from Bryn.

The school was re-opened on February 1st, 1926, after being closed for three weeks or five weeks, including the vacation

The chief cause of spread were carriers, cases occurring with very mild clinical symptoms and able to move about freely among the general public before their throats were free from the Diphtheria germ. When everyone realised the importance of reporting throat affections however mild, and the serious consequences of not doing so, the epidemic abated.

The cases were for the most part, moderately severe in type, and few complications occurred as a result. These were for the most part, palatal paralysis: One case, however, had very severe cardiac paralysis, but his recovery will ultimately be

complete. Arrangements were made for an adequate supply of Diphtheria antitoxin for injection, and in all instances a dose was given as soon as there was any doubt about the case.

### Puerperal Fever.

One case was notified from the South Ward. The age was 31. This gives an attack rate of 0.02 for the year as compared with 0.00 in 1924, 0.04 in 1923, 0.00 in 1922 and 0.00 in 1921. The attack rate for England and Wales was 0.03.

### Pneumonia.

17 cases of Pneumonia were notified during the year. This gives an attack rate of 0.38.

Comparative figures for previous years are as follows :—  
1924—0.55, 1923—0.18 and 1922—0.81.

The cases were distributed in the area as follows :—

Aberavon South Ward .....	6
Aberavon North Ward .....	1
Cwmavon Ward .....	0
Margam West Ward .....	4
Margam Central Ward .....	2
Margam North Ward .....	4

The seasonal incidence of Pneumonia was as follows :—

January .....	3
February .....	1
March .....	3
April .....	2
May .....	0
June .....	2
July .....	0
August .....	1
September .....	0
October .....	0
November .....	1
December .....	4

Their age distribution was as follows :—

yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.
0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65+
0	1	1	0	2	2	2	3	3	1	1	0

### Erysipelas.

Seven cases of Erysipelas were notified during the year. This gives an attack rate of 0.16 as compared with 0.18 in 1924, 0.16 in 1923 and 0.09 in 1922. The attack rate for England and Wales was 0.39.

The cases were distributed in the Borough as follows :--

Aberavon South Ward	4
Aberavon North Ward	0
Cwmavon Ward	0
Margam West Ward	1
Margam Central Ward	0
Margam North Ward	2

The age distribution was as follows :—

yrs. 1-10	yrs. 10-15	yrs. 15-20	yrs. 20-35	yrs. 35-45	yrs. 45-65	yrs. 65+
0	1	1	0	2	3	0

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

Two cases were notified during the year—1 from Margam West Ward and 1 from Margam North Ward. This gives an attack rate of 0.04 as compared with an attack rate of 0.09, 0.02 and 0.04 in 1924, 1923 and 1922 respectively.

### **Small Pox, Enteric Fever, Cerebro Spinal Fever and Acute Poliomyelitis.**

No cases have occurred in the district during the last five years.

### **Encephalitis Lethargica.**

No cases were notified during the year. The only cases that have been notified during the last five years were :—1 case in 1924, 1 case of Polioencephalitis in 1922.

### **Malaria.**

No cases were notified during the year.

During the last five years, cases were notified as follows :—1924—1, 1923—Nil, 1922—1.

### **Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.**

The information available with regard to these diseases is not so ready as for notifiable diseases. We have to rely on information from the schools by means of the Head Teachers and Attendance Officers, and from the Infant Welfare Centres and the Health Visitors.

Measles occurred sporadically at different times of the year with several small epidemics. It became most prevalent in May, June and July and affected the areas served by the Pont-rhydyfen, Cwmavon and Aberavon Council Schools chiefly.

Whooping Cough, Mumps and Chicken Pox were prevalent at different times, and in different parts, but no wide-spread epidemic of either occurred.

Influenza occurred also, chiefly towards the end of the year.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever .....	36	29	0
Diphtheria .....	62	*52	†1
Puerperal Fever .....	1	0	1
Pneumonia .....	17	0	31
Erysipelas .....	7	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	0	0

\*Including 1 case removed to Bridgend Fever Hospital.

† 1 case of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

During the year, the pressure of work was comparatively light until the Diphtheria epidemic broke out at Bryn. During December, 1925, and January, 1926, the Hospital was taxed to its limit of accommodation and it was fortunate that the epidemic relaxed its hold. The difficulty of accommodation was partly surmounted by purchasing extra beds and bedding and increasing the accommodation temporarily in this way.

Very little difficulty was met with during the year in removing cases to Hospital, and no cases were left at home that could not be effectually isolated.

Twenty-nine cases of Scarlet Fever were removed. These could be equally divided into the three categories—mild, moderately severe and severe.

No serious complications occurred in any of them and recovery was complete in each case. One case had a relapse during the sixth week, and a recurrence of the disease in a milder form in each stage occurred.

The average stay in Hospital was fifty and a half days. The longest stay was 81 days.

Fifty-one cases of Diphtheria were admitted during the year. These were for the most part, moderately severe in type—a few severe ones occurring.

In only 1 case did serious complications arise. This one had general paralysis and was in Hospital for 99 days. A complete recovery is ultimately anticipated.

In only 4 cases did any appreciable palatal paralysis occur, and 1 case had a septic adenitis of the glands of the neck. 1 laryngeal case was admitted.

Early administration of antitoxin in adequate amounts, undoubtedly prevents the occurrence of serious complications.

The average stay in Hospital of Diphtheria cases was  $38\frac{1}{3}$  days.

In all cases prior to discharge from Hospital, an endeavour is made to free them from infection, particular care being taken to see that there are no discharges from the nose and ears, and that the throat is in a healthy condition. In Diphtheria cases, swabs are taken to ensure that there are no Diphtheria germs harboured in the nose and throat.

Unfortunately, a very large percentage of the children who are admitted, suffer from chronic enlargement of the tonsils and adenoids, which makes them more susceptible to infectious diseases and also more difficult to free from infection.

This state is due to the fact that there are no adequate facilities for dealing with the condition.

After the removal of the case to Hospital or after the patient is declared free from infection if the case is isolated at home, the room and personal belongings of the patient are disinfected, contacts are excluded from school for the necessary periods, and the patient himself is advised not to return to school for fourteen days after discharge from Hospital.

### **Tuberculosis.**

During the year 57 cases of Tuberculosis were notified. 2 of these were transfers from other areas.

43 of these were of the pulmonary type and 14 of the non-pulmonary type.

Of the pulmonary type, 21 were males and 22 were females and of the non-pulmonary type 9 were males and 5 were females.

At the end of the year after deaths, removals and cases had been adjusted, there were on the register 127 cases of Tuberculosis. Of these 84 were pulmonary and 43 non-pulmonary. Of the pulmonary type, 42 were males and 26 females and of the non-pulmonary type, 26 were males and 17 were females.

The attack rate for the year would be 1.3 as compared with 1.6 in 1924, 1.44 in 1923 and 1.4 in 1922.

The total number of admissions and re-admissions notified on Form C. of the Tuberculosis Order, to the various Institutions of the Welsh National Memorial Association during the year was as follows :—

Talgarth Sanatorium .....	8
Cynlla Hospital .....	23
Llanybyther .....	2
Adelina Patti Hospital, Craig-y-nos .....	2
Llangwyfan Sanatorium .....	3
St. Bride's Hospital .....	1
Sealyham Wolf's Castle .....	1
	—
Total .....	40
	—

The total number of discharges notified from the various Institutions was as follows :—

Glan Ely .....	1
Cynlla .....	17
Talgarth .....	6
Sealyham .....	2
Llanybyther .....	2
Adelina Patti .....	1
St. Bride's .....	1
Llangwyfan .....	2
	—
Total .....	32
	—

Removals from the register were as follows :—

DEATHS :—

Males—Pulmonary .....	11
Non-Pulmonary .....	4
Females—Pulmonary .....	14
Non-Pulmonary .....	1
Total .....	— 30

REMOVALS FROM DISTRICT :—

Males—Pulmonary .....	1
Non-Pulmonary .....	0
Females—Pulmonary .....	3
Non-Pulmonary .....	1
Total .....	— 5

CURED :—

Male—Non-Pulmonary .....	1
Total .....	— 1
	—
Total .....	36
	—



The disease was notified as follows :—

Local Medical Practitioners .....	31
Tuberculosis Physicians .....	24
Transfers from other Areas .....	2

The organs affected in the non-pulmonary type were as follows :—

Spine .....	2
Glands .....	5
Abdomen .....	3
Rib .....	1
Hip .....	1
Bladder .....	1
Acute Miliary .....	1

The distribution of the disease in the area was as follows :—

Ward.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total
Aberavon South .....	20	3	23
Aberavon North .....	2	1	3
Cwmavon .....	10	5	15
Margam West .....	6	1	7
Margam Central .....	1	1	2
Margam North .....	4	1	5

In addition to the above, 2 cases were transferred from the Rhondda Urban District.

Age distribution of cases of Tuberculosis :—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.						DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
1-5 .....	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
5-10 .....	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
10-15 .....	2	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
15-20 .....	1	8	1	1	2	3	1	0	1	0
20-25 .....	3	3	1	1	0	5	1	0	1	0
25-35 .....	9	4	2	0	2	7	1	0	1	0
35-45 .....	3	1	2	0	4	3	2	0	2	0
45-55 .....	1	2	0	0	6	0	2	0	0	0
55-65 .....	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
65+ .....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

The treatment of Tuberculosis is carried out by the Welsh National Memorial. This may take the form of domiciliary treatment—when patients are left in their own homes

under the care of their own Medical Attendant, periodical visits being paid to the local Tuberculosis Dispensary or Sanatorium and Hospital treatment when all cases who require it are admitted without delay, there being an adequate number of beds for the purpose. As has been stated, all cases are visited by the Health Visitors as soon as they are notified.

When a death from Tuberculosis occurs, the rooms are disinfected and the clothing is taken away for steam disinfection.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.**

To comply with Article 3 of the Regulations, observations are taken as to whether any of the notified cases of Tuberculosis are engaged in the handling of milk. No occasion arose to cause any procedure under Article 5 of the Regulations.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.**

No action was necessary under this Section in the area.

### **MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee consists of twelve members of the Council, together with six co-opted members—one from each Ward.

The work carried out in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare includes :—

Health Visiting.

Infant Consultation at the Centres.

Provision of Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children.

Ante-Natal Visiting.

There are two Health Visitors who devote the whole of their time to Maternity and Child Welfare work and Tuberculosis visiting.

The Medical Officer of Health carries out the administrative work in connection with the service, and acts as Medical Officer to the various Centres.

On account of the pressure of other work, adequate attention cannot be paid to this aspect of Public Health work. A weekly session should be provided at Aberavon and Cwmavon, instead of the fortnightly one. An Ante-Natal Clinic should be established in the area also. Ante-natal work is being carried out by nearly all Authorities in South Wales, and Assistant Medical Officers have been appointed for the purpose.

During the year, no extension has taken place in the service, but it was found, that the service was becoming more popular as evidenced by the increased and more regular attendances. More interest was shown by parents in the welfare of the "toddler" as it was found that a large number attended the Centres.

### HEALTH VISITING.

During the year each child has been visited as soon after birth as possible, and in every instance not later than the tenth day. The frequency of the re-visits depends upon the condition of the child and the nature of the home environment, and also upon the regularity with which attendances at the Clinic are made. In cases where the child is seen regularly at the Clinic and where progress is satisfactory, there is not the same call for home visiting. This does not mean that home visiting should be done away with altogether in the latter instances, because it is only by visits paid, that the condition of the home environment of the child can be studied.

During the year, it has not been found possible to pay the attention desirable to home visits to infants and children. This in my opinion, is the most important part of Maternity and Child Welfare work because it is only in this way that every child in the district can be kept under supervision. We have no means of ensuring that all the children will attend the Centres, and it is found that only a proportion of them do so.

The Health Visitors have to spend so much of their time to Centre work and to the arrangements and enquiries in connection with the provision of milk and dried foods, that they were not able to pay their visits during the first year any oftener than every three or four months instead of every month or two. It was only a very small proportion also of children over eighteen months or two years that could be followed up. The "toddler" therefore, was to a large extent neglected as far as health visiting was concerned.

Under existing conditions, there is a gap in the supervision of the child from two to five years of age, because it is found that few can be visited in the homes and few attend the Centres.

The importance of proper supervision at this period is shown when one examines the results of routine examinations of children entering school. A great proportion of the defects detected at that time could be prevented if the child were under continuous supervision.

Health Visitors are generally well received and frequently their services are even asked for. The regularity of their visits depends upon the impression created at their first visit.

Advice in infant feeding and clothing is given and domestic remedies applied for any minor ailments that may be present. If any severe disease or disorder is present, the child is referred to the Centre or its own Medical Attendant.

The Health Visitors always encourage parents to bring their children to the Centres for weighing.

During the year, 965 visits were paid to children for the first time, 1,705 re-visits were paid to these children before they reached twelve months of age, 1,321 visits were paid to children between the age of one and five years, so that altogether 3,991 visits were paid during the year to children under 5 years.

Comparative figures for previous years are as follows :—

		First Visits.		Re-visits under 1 year.		Re-visits 1—5
1922	.....	976	.....	3,163	.....	1,579
1923	.....	989	.....	2,967	.....	589
1924	.....	944	.....	1,531	.....	1,183
1925	.....	965	.....	1,705	.....	1,321

### Ante-Natal Visiting.

This important aspect of the work has had perforce to be neglected. There is no Ante-natal Clinic established in the area, and without a complete scheme very little success can be hoped for. Such complete Scheme would include :—

- (i) An Ante-natal Clinic which would be under the direction of a Medical Officer trained in the work, and would provide the necessary supervision and various forms of treatment such as that for dental caries, etc.
- (ii) A Maternity Home; and
- (iii) An adequate Staff for visiting Ante-natal cases in their homes.

At present, visits are paid by the Health Visitors to Ante-natal cases whom they hear of in their districts, and at the time of her visit the Health Visitor directs her enquiries on the lines of discovering whether any abnormalities are present likely to interfere with child birth, or to endanger the life of the mother or the child.

The necessary advice is given, and the patient is referred to her own Medical Attendant for further examination and treatment if necessary.

Comparative figures for previous years are as follows :--

	Visits.
1922 .....	143
1923 .....	149
1924 .....	146
1925 .....	168

### Still-birth Visiting.

Thirty-five still-births were notified during the year, and in the case of all of them enquiries were made by the Health Visitors with a view to eliciting any cause that might be operative, and in order to prevent a recurrence during future pregnancies.

The causes assigned upon enquiries were as follows :--

Prematurity .....	19
Kidney Trouble .....	3
Difficult Labour .....	2
Deformity .....	1
Placenta Praevia .....	1
Anencephalus .....	1
Venereal Disease .....	1
Prematurity & Maceration .....	1
Eclampsia .....	1
Heart Disease .....	1
Other Causes .....	4

Comparative figures for previous years are as follows :--

	Still-birth Enquiries.
1922 .....	28
1923 .....	38
1924 .....	55
1925 .....	35

### Death Enquiries.

Forty-five visits were made in order to make further enquiries regarding infant deaths. The exact cause of death is supplied by the Registrar, but further enquiries are often necessary in order to see if there are any unsatisfactory conditions which may be counteracted in future.

Comparative figures for previous years are as follows :--

	Death Enquiries.
1922 .....	10
1923 .....	54
1924 .....	66
1925 .....	45



**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

Two cases were notified during the year—1 in March and 1 in April; 1 in the Margam Central Ward and 1 in the Margam West Ward. Both cases were treated at home by their own Medical Attendant and the Midwife in attendance. They were seen subsequently at the Centres and their vision was unimpaired. They were visited on several occasions by the Health Visitor.

**Puerperal Fever.**

One case of Puerperal Fever was notified from the Aberavon South Ward. This proved fatal. This was visited by the Health Visitor.

**Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.**

Under the above, the Authority have a scheme in operation whereby milk and preparations of milk can be supplied on grounds of health to children, expectant mothers and nursing mothers.

A scale of necessitousness has been drawn up, so that those who come within it are supplied with free milk or dried milk. Forms of application are completed by the applicant. These are checked and if found correct, an order is given to the applicant's milkman for a supply.

The Health Visitors act as enquiry officers for the purpose of administering the above, and a large proportion of their time is taken up by it.

During the year, 450 visits were paid for the purpose of making financial and other enquiries.

During the year, 141 individual cases were provided with milk or dried preparations of milk.

5,686 pints of fresh milk were given free which works out at £77 8s. 6½d. In addition, 868lbs. of dried milk were given which works out at £63 3s. 4d.

The total amount spent during the year on milk and preparations of milk was £140 11s. 10½d.

**Diarrhoea.**

Diarrhoea was not prevalent during the year. There were only 3 deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis, and 1 of these occurred outside the area. There were only a few children seen to be affected by it at the Centres, and at the time of their visits by the Health Visitors. No cases of epidemic Enteritis came under notice.

**Maternal Mortality.**

This has been previously discussed. All cases were investigated by the Health Visitors.



## Orthopœdic Treatment.

Orthopœdic treatment for children under five.—This has been reported on in detail in the School Medical Officer's Report. A scheme for this has been formulated in conjunction with the Education Committee.

Approval has been given for the examination of all crippled children in the area by an Orthopœdic Specialist and a visit was paid at the end of the year by Mr. Alwyn Smith, Cardiff. An effort was made to get all the cases in the area who were in any way affected and coming within this category.

Ultimately, after orthopœdic schemes have been perfected, the greater part of the work to be done in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of crippling conditions in children will devolve upon Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities because the onset of these conditions occurs in the majority of instances before the child arrives at school age.

Twelve cases were altogether collected for examination by the Specialist.

- 1 was being treated at Swansea Hospital.
- 6 required appliances at the Prince of Wales Hospital, and to be kept under supervision as out-patients or to attend at an Orthopœdic Clinic.
- 1 required exercises.
- 2 required treatment at the Prince of Wales Hospital for 2—3 weeks.
- 1 required treatment at the Prince of Wales Hospital for 2—3 days and an appliance.
- 1 could be treated under supervision at home.

The causes of crippling were as follows :—

Congenital Deformity .....	1
Infantile Paralysis .....	6
Birth Injuries .....	4
Rickets .....	1

Approval of the scheme for the treatment and after care has been suspended for the time being.

An outline of the scheme submitted is as follows :—

Treatment at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff, will have to be carried out and arrangements have been made for the admission of cases and the payment for a maintenance fee of £2 2s. 0d. per week.

Arrangements have been made also for the measuring and fitting of appliances. This is being done according to a scale of costs drawn up and quotations will be supplied in each case beforehand.

The question of the after care of cases treated in Hospital will be over-come by making arrangements with the Prince of Wales Hospital at the commencement. The cases then will have to travel to Cardiff.

As soon as the number of cases warrants the establishment of an Orthopœdic Clinic, one will be opened in charge of a Nurse trained in Orthopœdic work. After care consists of the supervision of the wearing of appliances, with massage, remedial exercises, renewal plaster of paris splints.

The supervision of the Clinic will be carried out by the Medical Officer of Health.

After the cases have been selected for treatment, all those who cannot afford the full cost, will be considered by the Committee. A scale of necessitousness has been drawn up and all cases coming within it, will be eligible for assistance.

### Infectious Diseases Epidemics.

No cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the year, but a few cases of the results of an attack were seen at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

Measles and Whooping Cough were epidemic during the year. Epidemics of Measles occurred during the summer, when the attendance at the schools were below sixty per cent. There were altogether 18 deaths from Measles and in most cases, the secondary cause of death was Bronchitis or Pneumonia.

### INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

TAIBACH.—This is held at the Public Health Department, and is open weekly on a Thursday afternoon. A good attendance was maintained all through the year; the average being 29.8.

The number on register at the end of the year was 429 and the total number of attendances was 1,551.

Average attendances for the previous years were as follows :—

1923	.....	32
1924	.....	26

ABERAVON.—This Centre is open fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon and an average of 41 was maintained during the year, as compared with 28.6 in 1924. There were 413 children on the register at the end of the year and altogether 1,667 attendances were recorded. This Centre is overcrowded at times and weekly sessions should be held, but on account of shortage of Staff, this is impossible.

CWMAYON.—This Centre is open fortnightly on Thursday mornings. This was well attended during the year and an average attendance of 33 was maintained as compared with 23 in 1924. The number on register at the end of the year was 379 and 862 attendances were recorded. The attendance here has shewn a steady improvement since it was re-opened in 1922. At this Centre, regularity of attendance is maintained by the parents and the standard of mothercraft is on the whole very satisfactory.

BRYN.—This Centre meets on the first Wednesday morning in each month. The average attendances for the year was 17.6 as compared with 16.9 for 1924. The total number on the register at the end of the year was 86, while 210 attendances were recorded during the year.

### **TUBERCULOSIS VISITING.**

A part of the Health Visitors time is taken up in visiting cases of Tuberculosis. 69 visits were paid to cases notified. All these were re-visited during the year and altogether 114 re-visits were paid.

All cases are visited as soon as they are notified when the Health Visitor is able to give advice on diet and general hygiene and to impress upon the patient, the importance of the careful disposal of any discharges to prevent the spread of infection. The importance of a separate bedroom is always advocated, but in several instances, this was impossible on account of overcrowding. The names of any children who attend the Elementary Schools are recorded, so that they can be kept under supervision.

TABLE I.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Causes of, and Ages at Death, during 1925.																			
	Deaths in or belonging to the whole area at subjoined ages.													Deaths in or belonging to Wards at all ages.						Total Deaths in Institutions in area
	Total All Ages	Males	Females	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 55	55 and under 65	65 and upwards	Aberavon South Ward	Aberavon North Ward	Cwmavon Ward	Margam West Ward	Margam Central Ward	Margam North Ward	
All causes—																				
Certified .....	440	217	223	59	13	16	11	35	30	36	47	62	131	117	82	70	96	61	11	0
Uncertified .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles .....	18	11	7	4	5	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	2	2	0	1	0
Whooping Cough .....	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Diphtheria .....	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Influenza .....	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	2	3	1	0	1	1	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	36	16	20	0	0	0	2	10	9	7	6	1	1	11	10	6	6	1	2	0
Other Tubercu- lous Diseases	11	8	3	2	1	1	0	2	1	2	2	0	0	3	3	2	0	2	1	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	54	21	33	0	0	0	0	2	2	5	11	14	20	10	11	10	16	7	0	2
Rheumatic Fever	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diabetes .....	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage .....	27	15	12	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	5	17	5	3	5	7	6	1	0
Heart Disease	58	28	30	2	0	0	1	3	0	4	6	13	29	15	8	13	15	7	0	0
Arterio Sclerosis	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Bronchitis .....	38	22	16	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	23	8	7	7	14	2	0	0
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	31	15	16	10	4	1	1	2	0	4	1	3	5	8	3	9	2	9	0	0
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 yrs.)	13	2	11	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	3	0	2	0	0
Appendicitis	5	3	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Acute & Chronic Nephritis .....	18	6	12	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	3	4	5	4	3	0	7	3	1	0
Puerperal Sepsis	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other accidents & Diseases of Preg- nancy & Parturi- tion .....	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Congenital Debility Malformation, Premature Birth	21	11	10	20	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	2	2	8	1	0
Suicide .....	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other deaths from Violence .....	29	23	6	1	0	3	0	4	5	7	4	2	3	7	6	3	7	5	1	6
Other defined Diseases .....	51	21	30	4	1	2	2	6	4	4	3	6	19	16	11	3	10	8	3	4

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—	M.	F.
Total .....	24	35
Illegitimate .....	2	2
Total Births .....	493	473
Legitimate .....	483	463
Illegitimate .....	10	13

Population .....	43,500
Birth Rate .....	22.2
Death Rate .....	10.1
Infantile Mortality Rate .....	60
Legitimate .....	58
Illegitimate .....	173
Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 births) .....	4.1



TABLE II.  
INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

Causes of Death.	By Ages.										By Wards.					
	—1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1—3 month.	3—6 month.	6—9 month.	9—12 month.	Total under 1 year.	Aberavon Ward.	Aberavon North Ward.	Cwmavon Ward.	Margam West Ward.	Margam Central Ward.	Margam North Ward.
Small Pox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	—	—	—	1	0	—
Scarlet Fever ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	—	2	0	0	0	0
Whooping c'gh ..	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	1	0	1	—	0	1	0	0	0
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	—	0	0	0	0	0
Abdominal .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	—	1	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forward .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	7	2	3	1	1	0	0



TABLE II. INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Continued.

Causes of Death.	By Ages.							By Wards.								
	—1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1—3 month.	3—6 month.	6—9 month.	9—12 month.	Total under 1 year.	Aberavon South Ward.	Aberavon North Ward.	Cwmavon Ward.	Margam West Ward.	Margam Central Ward.	Margam North Ward.
Bght. for. ....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	7	2	3	1	1	0	0
Meningitis non-Tuberculous ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions ..	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	1
Bronchitis ..	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	5	0	0	1	2	2	0
Pneumonia ..	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	2	8	3	0	2	0	3	0
Diarrhoea ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis ..	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	0
Gastritis ..	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	1	9	2	3	3	0	1	0
Syphilis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation Over-laying ..	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Injury at Birth ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis Congenital Mal'tion	2	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0
Premature Birth 14	14	1	1	0	16	0	0	0	0	16	3	3	2	2	5	1
Atrophy Debility	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marasmus ..	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Other Causes ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	17	2	4	1	24	6	12	10	7	59	17	9	9	6	16	2

TABLE III.

## Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1925.

{Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	Birth rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population.										Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths										
										Violence	Influenza	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Small Pox	Enteric Fever	All Causes		Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under One Year	Causes of Death Certified by Register'd Medical Practit- ioners.	Inquest Cases	Uncerti- fied. Causes of Death
England and Wales ...	18·3	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·13	0·03	0·15	0·07	0·32	0·47	8·4	75	92·1	6·9	1·0									
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, includ- ing London ...	18·8	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·17	0·03	0·18	0·09	0·30	0·43	10·8	79	92·1	7·3	0·6									
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000) ...	18·3	11·2	0·01	0·00	0·15	0·02	0·14	0·06	0·31	0·38	7·6	74	93·0	5·9	1·1									
London ...	18·0	11·7	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·02	0·19	0·11	0·23	0·46	10·6	67	91·1	8·5	0·0									
PORT TALBOT...	22·2	10·11	0·00	0·00	0·41	0·00	0·02	0·02	0·13	0·73	13·4	60	90·0	10·0	0·00									

TABLE IV.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

## DISTRIBUTION BY WARDS.

Disease.	Wards.							Total No. of cases re-moved to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	Abertown South Ward	Abertown North Ward	Cwmavon Ward	Margam West Ward	Margam Central Ward	Margam North Ward	Total.		
Scarlet Fever .....	5	2	1	13	7	8	36	29	0
Diphtheria .....	8	11	0	2	3	38	62	52	1
Pneumonia .....	6	1	0	4	2	4	17	0	31
Erysipelas .....	4	0	0	1	0	2	7	0	0
Ophthalmia .....	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0
Puerperal Fever .....	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis .....	23	3	15	7	2	5	55	40	47
Enteric Fever .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Pox .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

One case of Diphtheria was admitted to the Bridgend Fever Hospital.

Two cases of Tuberculosis were transferred to this area from the Rhondda Urban District in addition to the above.

TABLE V.

Table showing number of cases of Infectious Disease notified, and the number removed to Hospital for isolation since the opening of the Institution.

Year	No. of Cases notified				Total cases notified	No. of Cases removed				Total cases removed	Percentage of cases removed	Deaths
	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typh. Fever	Small Pox		Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typh. Fever	Small Pox			
1897	37	16	6	0	59	29	11	6	0	46	77.9	1
1898	34	33	1	0	68	29	21	1	0	51	75.	2
1899	10	37	2	0	49	6	18	1	0	25	50.	1
1900	37	26	0	0	63	22	12	0	0	34	54.	0
1901	66	32	2	0	100	40	8	0	0	48	48.	0
1902	117	117	1	0	235	72	61	0	0	133	56.6	1
1903	128	44	5	0	177	73	7	0	0	80	45.	0
1904	69	11	11	1	122	40	11	0	1	52	42.6	0
1905	26	24	0	0	50	11	13	0	0	24	48.	0
1906	32	29	1	0	62	19	9	0	0	28	45.	0
1907	16	11	10	0	37	7	8	9	0	24	65.	0
1908	20	23	9	0	52	12	10	2	0	24	46.	1
1909	40	26	5	0	71	19	13	2	0	34	48.	2
1910	30	19	1	0	50	4	8	0	0	12	24.	0
1911	58	16	4	0	78	36	11	3	0	50	64.	0
1912	19	63	1	0	83	9	48	1	0	58	73.4	1
1913	15	56	0	0	71	12	37	0	0	49	69.	6
1914	78	23	0	0	101	62	17	0	0	79	78.25	1
1915	55	11	1	0	67	37	10	0	0	47	70.1	0
1916	44	23	0	0	67	34	19	0	0	53	79.1	1
1917	18	13	0	0	31	16	10	0	0	26	83.2	0
1918	16	27	0	0	43	11	21	0	0	32	74.4	0
1919	40	15	2	0	57	32	13	0	0	45	80.	0
1920	52	48	1	0	101	40	33	1	0	74	73.2	0
1921	150	122	0	0	272	123	93	0	0	216	79.4	7
1922	114	64	1	0	179	82	50	1	0	133	73.2	5
1923	53	61	0	0	114	41	47	0	0	88	77.19	3
1924	49	38	0	0	87	36	31	0	0	67	77.0	0
1925	36	62	0	0	98	29	51	0	0	80	81.6	0
Total	1459	1120	64	1	2644	983	801	27	1	1712	—	32
Add cases treated in Hospital from outside the Margam District, prior to Amalgamation .....										172	—	6
Grand Totals in Hospital .....										1884	—	38

The figures up to and including 1921 relate to the Old Margam District, the figures for 1922 and afterwards relate to the Borough of Port Talbot,

**TABLE VI.**  
**CAUSES OF DEATH.**

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.
All Causes .....	217	223
Measles .....	11	7
Whooping Cough .....	0	1
Diphtheria .....	0	1
Influenza .....	4	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....	18	20
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	7	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease .....	20	29
Rheumatic Fever .....	6	4
Diabetes .....	2	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ....	10	8
Heart Disease .....	24	31
Arterio-sclerosis .....	3	5
Bronchitis .....	18	11
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	13	18
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....	1	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) .....	1	9
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .....	3	2
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	3	0
Acute and Chronic Nephritis .....	7	10
Puerperal Sepsis .....	0	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition .....	0	3
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth .....	11	9
Suicide .....	3	0
Other Deaths from Violence .....	22	5
Other Defined Diseases .....	29	41
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—		
Total .....	24	35
Illegitimate .....	2	2
Total Births .....	502	483
Legitimate .....	486	470
Illegitimate .....	16	13
Population .....	43,500	

General Register Office,  
Somerset House,  
London, W.C. 2.

March, 1926.

Borough of Port Talbot.



*ANNUAL*  
**REPORT**  
OF THE  
Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 31st, 1925.



# Borough of Port Talbot.

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The Report of WILLIAM F. BISHOP, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Inspector under the Factory and Workshops Acts, and Housing, Town Planning, etc. Acts.

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*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Corporation  
of the Borough of Port Talbot.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1925, of the sanitary condition of your Borough, with the action taken and results obtained in the performance of my duties as Senior Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Housing Acts and as Inspector under the Factory and Workshops Acts.

## INSPECTIONS.

During the year the number of inspections made was 15,193, and these may be classified as follows:—

House to House Inspections .....	402
Other House Inspections .....	1,783
(a) Structural Defects .....	1,082
(b) Foul Conditions .....	691
(c) Unfit for Human Habitation .....	53
Schools .....	156
Ashpits, Privies and Cesspools .....	1,106
Stables, Refuse and Manure .....	472
Pigstyes and Swine-keeping .....	89
Animals Improperly kept .....	24
Other Nuisances .....	135
Slaughterhouses .....	231
Meat and Food .....	868
Cowsheds and Dairies .....	321
Water Supplies .....	1,304
Drains, Yards, and w.c.'s. ....	5,724
Infectious Diseases .....	300

## INSPECTIONS.—Continued.

Workshops .....	175
Bakehouses .....	75
Common Lodging Houses .....	32
Offensive Trades .....	48
Housing, Town Planning Re-inspec- tions .....	98
Cinemas .....	24
Total .....	15,193

## DWELLING HOUSES AND SCHOOLS.

The need of house accommodation suitable to meet the demand of the working classes is still felt, and the situation does not appear to be eased to any extent, although considerable building operations have been carried on during the past year. Over-crowding is still as prevalent as ever in the Borough, and no serious attempt towards dealing with the problem is possible as long as the shortage continues.

The conditions under which numbers of families in the Borough are herded together are deplorable.

While no definite information is available by reason of the failure of your Staff to carry out systematic housing inspections, it is obvious that the Wards most seriously affected are Aberavon South and Cwmavon, and perusal of the figures relating to Tuberculosis contained in the Medical Officer of Health's Report, is sufficient evidence to prove the dire necessity of some definite steps being taken to meet what is undoubtedly one of the primary causes of the disease.

During the past year 187 houses were erected and certified for occupation, but although this is a greater number of houses erected than has been the case for a number of years, this does not appear to meet the situation having regard to the fact that subsidy houses which form the greater part of those erected cannot be purchased by those who are affected by the housing shortage to the greatest extent, having regard to the fact that their means do not allow of their finding the necessary 10% to enable them to borrow the remainder under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act.

It is, therefore, obvious that until houses can be erected for letting purposes, the situation will remain unchanged.

The new houses erected are fairly well built, and are provided in most cases with the water carriage system of drainage. Water supplies are laid on. I am of opinion, however,

that greater care should be taken with regard to the filling up of low lying building sites before any houses are allowed to be erected, not only to provide for a drier site, but so that better means of drainage may be ensured. This is a matter that should be considered without delay, otherwise with the rapid extension of the populated portion of the district on both flanks, trouble will arise from the overcharging of sewers and drains, apart from the low lying positions which the houses themselves will occupy.

The progress of the new sewerage scheme for Baglan, for which sanction to borrow the money has been received, will provide means for the abolition of cesspools, etc. in that area, and so obviate what will shortly become a nuisance, especially if building operations are to proceed as at present in that direction.

Some progress is still maintained in the drainage of the Cwmavon area, but time does not allow of this work being forced at as fast a rate as is desirable.

The Corporation have now prohibited the erection of temporary dwellings. This is undoubtedly a wise procedure, as a number of those erected are gradually falling into disrepair.

In the case of the older houses in the Borough, the conditions remain unchanged. No systematic inspections can be made, as there is more than sufficient work in dealing with the nuisances which come to the notice of your Inspectors. By reason of this fact, a good number of houses are falling into a state of disrepair which might otherwise be prevented.

### **SCHOOLS.**

During the year 156 inspections were made in connection with the Elementary, Secondary and County Schools within the Borough, in the course of which 14 nuisances were discovered, and 14 notices given for their abatement.

In compliance with these notices, the following works have been executed :—

4 w.c's. repaired, 1 waste pipe repaired, 1 ditch cleaned out, 1 urinal spray pipe repaired, 4 flushing tanks repaired, 2 drains cleared, 4 w.c. ranges cleansed and limewashed.

The nuisances discovered in dwelling houses and schools were principally due to the following causes :—

- (a) Structural Defects.
- (b) Foul Conditions.
- (c) Over-crowding.
- (d) Unfit for Human Habitation.

(a) **Structural Defects.**

The number of defects found existing under this heading was 250. The number of inspections made was 1,082. For the abatement of the nuisances discovered 247 Informal and 209 Statutory Notices were served, and the following work was executed in connection with the same :—

31 houses provided with shoots and downpipes, 32 shoots and downpipes repaired, 60 roofs repaired, 8 chimneys repaired, 26 grates repaired, 7 new grates fixed, 8 new ovens fixed; 1 washing boiler fixed, 3 washing boilers repaired, 1 new lead gutter fixed, 12 new windows fixed, 39 windows repaired, 8 new doors fixed, 19 doors repaired, 6 stairs repaired, 5 boundary walls repaired, 4 garden gates fixed, 2 hearths repaired, 32 new floors laid, 28 floors repaired, 3 spaces under floors concreted, 33 walls and ceilings re-plastered, 8 dilapidated walls rebuilt, 4 pine ends cemented, 18 walls rendered damp proof, 2 skirtings repaired.

(b) **Foul Conditions.**

In connection with this heading 691 inspections were made, during the course of which 212 nuisances were discovered, and for their abatement 206 Informal and 46 Statutory Notices were served.

The following works were carried out for the abatement of the nuisances :—

153 systems of drains cleared, 12 offensive ditches cleaned out, 2 decomposing carcasses removed, 3 dirty houses cleansed, 12 waste pipes repaired.

(c) **Over-crowding.**

The conditions with respect to over-crowding have been dealt with in the first part of the Report. Inability to secure alternative accommodation, render action in this matter impossible, and for this reason, instances of over-crowding are seldom recorded.

(d) **Unfit for Human Habitation.**

53 inspections of premises which may be classified under this heading were made. In connection with the 6 houses which were discovered to fall under this category, 5 Informal Notices were served and in 4 instances, the premises have been placed in a satisfactory condition.

## SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS.

Proceedings were instituted before the Justices upon six occasions during the year with the following results :—

<i>Situation of Premises.</i>	<i>Owner.</i>	<i>Nature of Defects.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
17 Mabel St., Aberavon.	Rd. Morgan	Structural Defects.	Works executed after 2 adjourn- ments of cases. Defendant to pay costs.
22 Mabel St., Aberavon.	"	"	
24 Mabel St., Aberavon.	"	"	
12 Cornwall St., Aberavon.	"	"	"
18 Cornwall St., Aberavon.	"	"	"
20 Cornwall St., Aberavon.	"	"	Order granted after 2 adjourn- ments. Defendant to pay costs.

## GENERAL NUISANCES.

The nuisances discovered under this heading may be classed as follows :—

- (a) Ashpits, Privies and Cesspools.
- (b) Stables, Refuse and Manure.
- (c) Pigstyes and Swinekeeping.
- (d) Animals Improperly kept.
- (e) Other Nuisances.

### (a) Ashpits, Privies and Cesspools.

During the year 1,106 inspections were made of premises which come under this heading. During the course of these inspections, 358 nuisances were dealt with, and 182 Informal and 182 Statutory Notices were served.

The following works were executed :—105 systems of drains provided, 2 privies cleansed, 105 privies abolished, 6 new pails provided, 5 cesspools cleaned out.

### (b) Stables, Refuse and Manure.

The number of inspections made in connection with this matter was 472, during the course of which 36 nuisances were discovered. 36 Informal and 1 Statutory Notices were served, and the following works were executed :—

18 accumulations of manure removed, 1 insanitary erection removed, 4 nuisances from burning refuse and offal discontinued, 1 incinerator erected, 2 dung pits constructed.



(c) **Pigstyes and Swinekeeping.**

There were 89 inspections made in connection with this matter. 14 nuisances were discovered, and for their abatement 14 Informal and 2 Statutory Notices were served.

The following works were executed:—16 nuisances from improper keeping of swine abated, 7 nuisances from improper keeping of hogwash abated.

(d) **Animals Improperly kept.**

The number of inspections under this heading was 24, in the course of which 8 nuisances were discovered, and for their abatement 8 Informal Notices were served.

The following work was carried out in this connection during the year:—14 nuisances from improper keeping of poultry abated.

(e) **Other Nuisances.**

125 inspections were made of premises which cannot be classed under any other particular heading.

During the course of these inspections, 11 nuisances were discovered, and for their abatement 11 Informal Notices were served.

Included under this head are a number of inspections in connection with the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, and the notices served refer in most cases to this matter.

## **SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.**

In connection with the six licensed Slaughter-houses and the Public Abattoir, 231 inspections were made, during the course of which 3 nuisances were discovered. After the service of Informal Notices the following works were executed:—

1 drain repaired, 1 accumulation of offal removed, 1 water service repaired.

The whole of these premises are fairly well kept, having regard to their construction and position in relation to dwelling houses.

The general condition with respect to the control and examination of the meat prepared in them remains unchanged, and while the question of the provision of a new Public Abattoir has been discussed for some considerable time, nothing definite has yet accrued.

The new Public Health (Meat) Regulations foreshadowed in my last Report came into force upon April 1st last,



but while the giving of notices of intention to slaughter, etc., give the Inspectors an idea of the times of slaughter, the object, viz. :—to allow of regular inspection is to a great extent defeated by reason of the fact that persons are often killing at the same time in slaughter-houses miles apart.

While systematic inspection of the animals slaughtered should be carried out, this with the present staff and with the existing slaughter-houses is impossible, and I can only repeat my previous requests that the Corporation should take steps to provide a Public Abattoir without delay.

### **Slaughtering on Unlicensed Premises.**

Two persons were discovered slaughtering upon unlicensed premises during the year. Proceedings were instituted before the Magistrates, and a conviction of £2 Cs. 0d. and costs was inflicted in one case, and £1 0s. 0d. and costs in the other.

## **MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS.**

The number of inspections registered during the year in connection with this matter was 868.

The following articles of food were seized or surrendered, and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption :—

1330lbs. of beef, 172lbs. of veal, 3 bovine hearts (15lbs.), messentery fat (12½lbs.), 180¼lbs. of bacon, 2lbs. of brawn, 11lbs. of sausage, 20 pork pies, 7 leaves of bread, 3 tins of salmon, 12 tins of milk, 11 tins of cherries, 1 tin of plums, 49lbs. of pork, 13 bovine livers (190¼lbs.), 2 bovine heads (33lbs.), 120lbs. of pork kidneys, 131lbs. of cooked ham, 33lbs. of corned beef, 1lb. of polonies, 5 sausage rolls, ½lb. margarine, 38 tins of herrings and tomatoes, 17 tins of pears, 5 tins of peaches, 2 tins of pilchards, 105lbs. of mutton, 3 bovine tongues (16¾lbs.) 5 bovine lungs (50½lbs.), 30lbs. of pigs plucks, 84lbs. of prawns, 17lbs. of lunch tongue, 1lb. of roast pork, 82 rabbits, 19 tins of tomatoes, 4 tins of sardines, 1 tin of logan berries, 9 tins of chunks.

During the course of these inspections some 1,345 cattle, sheep, goats and pigs were examined. This number however, represent only about 6% of the animals slaughtered in the Borough during the year, having regard to the fact that some 23,000 animals are killed yearly in the Borough.

## **PROSECUTIONS.**

The following prosecutions were instituted in respect of diseased and unsound foods :—

Name.	Nature of Article.	Result.
Samuel Dolbear (8 summonses)	Possession of Un-sound beef for sale.	£40 and costs.
Arthur Watkiss (2 summonses).	Possession of Diseased bovine organs for sale.	Defendant given benefit of doubt as to whether organs were intended for food, and case dismissed.
Daniel Davies.	Exposure for sale of diseased pig's head.	£2 and costs.
Star Supply Tea Co.	Sale of unsound bacon	£5 and costs.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

In connection with the provisions of the above Regulations, prosecutions were instituted in 4 cases as follows :—

Name.	Offence.	Result.
A. Watkiss	Slaughtering without Notice.	Costs. (First cases
A. Watkiss	"	" in the Bor-
G. James.	"	" ough under
G. James.	"	" Regulations)
D. S. Jones.	"	£2 and costs.

### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

During the year, 321 inspections were made in connection with Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops. 55 nuisances were discovered, and for their abatement notices were served.

In order to comply with these notices, the following works were carried out :—

10 new cowshed floors laid, 6 cowsheds lighted and ventilated, 4 cowsheds provided with water supplies, 1 water tank cleaned out and covered, 1 dairy provided, 1 offence from improper storage of milk abated, 3 offences from unclean udders abated, 11 cowsheds drained, 6 cowsheds provided with new stalls and mangers, 17 cowsheds and dairies cleansed and lime-washed, 10 accumulations of manure removed, 1 offence from dirty milking utensils abated, Covered pails provided in 18 instances.

Steady progress has been maintained in the structural repair and alteration of the old and dilapidated cowsheds during the year, and the cowsheds situated at the following farms have been internally re-constructed and made in a good state :—

Penhyddwaelod Farm, Bryn.  
Tydu Farm, Margam.  
Home Farm, Margam.  
Cwmbrombil Farm, Margam.  
Duffryn Mill Farm, Port Talbot.

It is hoped that in the near future, the whole of the dairy farms in the district will be provided with cowsheds and dairies of a good standard, and if the progress so far made can be maintained, I have no hesitation in saying that they will compare very favourably with anything in the principality, but while good floors, drainage and water supply, etc., have been provided, the farmer does not in every case respond to the new conditions, with the consequent tendency to provide better means of cleanliness and a cleaner milk supply as should be the case.

Under the new conditions, there is no reason whatsoever why any of the farmers should not be producing milk above the "Grade A." Standard, as is done by some of them at the present time under far worse conditions.

With this object in view, more frequent inspections during milking times should be made, but with the staff at my present disposal, this work cannot be carried out in anything like a satisfactory manner.

### **Milk Special Designations Order.**

There are two persons licensed to sell milk under this Order as follows :—

W. J. Thomas, Old Park Farm, Margam, licensed by the Glamorgan County Council to sell milk as "Grade A."

Messrs. Richards Bros., of 95, Tanygroes Street, Port Talbot, licensed by the Corporation to sell milk as "Pasteurised."

### **WATER SUPPLIES.**

The sources from which the Corporation derive their water supply remain as in my last Report. The necessity for enumerating them does not arise.

The supply both as regards quantity and quality has been well maintained, and during the year, 11 chemical and 13 bacteriological samples were taken and submitted for analysis.

No progress has yet been made with the laying of the mains necessary at Cwmavon, and the work of drainage of the houses to the new sewers is consequently held up to a large degree. The Corporation have had the matter under consideration for a considerable time, so far without definite steps being taken to provide the required mains.

During the year, 1,304 inspections were made in connection with water supplies. The number of nuisances discovered was 201, and for their abatement 199 Informal and 57 Statutory Notices were served. The following works were executed :—

6 water supplies laid on, 68 water services repaired, 62 flushing tanks repaired, 27 water services re-laid, 54 new flushing tanks fixed, 1 tank cleaned out.

### **SCAVENGING, COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.**

The deposit, collection and removal of house refuse throughout the Borough remains in the same unsatisfactory state as in my previous Report.

All kinds of receptacles are used for the deposit of house refuse, and consist of buckets, tubs, boxes, etc., and often no receptacle of any kind, in which case the refuse is dumped in a heap on the side of the road.

Open carts are still used by the Corporation for the removal of the refuse to the open refuse tips, which are the ultimate means of disposal of the refuse collected.

I have called attention in previous reports to the need for better means of collection and disposal of refuse throughout the Borough, but up to the present, nothing has been done with this object in view.

The present system cannot be described as anything but primitive.

### **HOUSE DRAINS, YARDS AND W.C.'s.**

The number of inspections of house drains, yards and w.c.'s. made during the year was 5,724. During the course of these inspections, 605 nuisances were dealt with. 421 Informal and 336 Statutory Notices were served and in connection with abatement, the following works have been executed :—

119 houses provided with drainage systems, 32 systems of drains repaired, 28 w.c.'s. re-constructed, 173 w.c.'s. provided with new tanks, 30 slop closets converted into w.c.'s., 4 vent

shafts repaired, 1 drain removed from inside house, 19 yards repaved, 17 systems of drains re-laid, 119 w.c's. provided, 82 w.c's. repaired, 62 tanks repaired, 5 vent shafts provided to drains, 6 inspection chambers provided, 8 subsoil drains provided, 3 yards repaired.

### **CWMAVON DRAINAGE.**

Progress is still being made in connection with the provision of means of drainage to the new sewers in the Cwmavon area, and during the year 100 systems were completed, and there are a good number in progress.

The rapidity with which this work is carried out is, however, not what may be desired, having regard to the fact that sufficient attention cannot be concentrated upon this work, by reason of demands made upon your Inspectors in other directions.

This is a matter which should receive the attention of the Corporation, both from a Public Health and economic standpoint, seeing that at present, the cost of removal and disposal of night soil remains practically the same as prior to the laying of the sewers which are under present conditions an extra financial burden. With the rapid completion of the compulsory draining of the houses to the sewer, the cost of collection and disposal of night soil would be reduced to a minimum, and thus apart from the abolition of the present unsatisfactory means of disposal, a large financial saving would be affected.

No progress has yet been made in connection with the provision of the water mains required to provide a sufficient supply of water for flushing purposes, and this fact is at present a great obstacle in the way of connecting up a good number of the houses to the sewers.

### **SEWERAGE.**

The general conditions as to the sewerage of the Borough remain as in previous reports.

Up to the present, nothing has been done in connection with the relaying of the sewers in Angel Street and Glenavon Street, Aberavon, although the matter has been repeatedly reported upon.

A portion of the sewer at the rear of Alfred Street, Aberavon, which was discovered to be in a very defective state has been relaid. An automatic flushing tank was erected at the head of the new sewer, and a considerable improvement has been effected by reason of the regular and systematic flushing of the sewers in this locality.



Some slight improvement has been effected in the cleaning out of the settling tanks at the Bryn Sewage Farm. The channels for irrigation have been cleaned out, but the sewage is still being discharged into the river in its crude state.

A report was presented dealing with this matter, in which it was recommended amongst other things that the land should be ploughed up and two extra beds provided, but this has not yet been carried out.

I am of opinion, that sufficient attention is not paid to the land and tanks, and for this reason, I recommended that the premises should be controlled by the Corporation themselves.

In its present state, the beds and tanks are useless, and the sewage which is supposed to be treated on them passes direct to the river which is therefore polluted.

Samples of the effluent as discharged into the river have been taken by the Glamorgan County Council and have proved very unsatisfactory, and unless some steps are taken to provide for the treatment of the sewage before entering the river, the Corporation may render themselves liable to prosecution under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts.

The sanction of the Ministry of Health has been obtained for the borrowing of the money in respect of the Baglan sewers, and this work will, no doubt, be commenced shortly. This will provide for the drainage of a large area, and having regard to the development of this area, will obviate the necessity for the provision of many additional cesspools as are now required.

### **OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

At the end of the year there were 41 Offensive Trades registered in the Borough, and were constituted as follows:—

Fish and chip frying 38, Marine store dealers 3.

During the year, 5 Offensive Trades were removed, and 8 added to the register.

The majority of these premises are fairly well kept and the byelaws observed.

It is, however, necessary that some means should be adopted whereby the number of these premises should be restricted.

During the year 48 inspections were made, and nuisances were discovered in 6 cases. Upon the service of 6 Informal and 1 Statutory Notices the following works were executed:—

2 receptacles provided for deposit of garbage, 1 fish shop and premises cleansed, 1 chimney provided to carry off fumes, 1 gut scraping establishment discontinued to be used as such,



### COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The seven common lodging houses in the Borough were visited during the year, and 32 inspections were recorded.

These premises provide accommodation for 203 lodgers, and are fairly well kept.

Four nuisances were discovered, and in response to service of Notices, the works were carried out in two cases by the cleansing of the premises.

### CINEMAS AND AMUSEMENT HOUSES.

Twenty-four inspections were made in connection with these premises during the course of which 4 nuisances were discovered, due to defects in sanitary arrangements. Upon the service of Notices, the defects were made good.

The premises are kept in a fairly good state.

### INCREASE OF RENT AND MORTGAGE (INTEREST) RESTRICTION ACT.

Applications were received from two occupiers for certificates as to houses not being in a reasonable state of repair under the provisions of the above Act, and in each case a certificate was granted.

### Scarlet Fever. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Thirty-six cases of Scarlet Fever were reported to me during the year. The cases occurred in the various Wards of the district as follows :—

WARDS.									
Month.	Margam West	Margam Central	Margam North	Aberavon South	Aberavon North	Cwm- avon	Total Cases	No. of cases removed to Hospital	
Jan.	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Feb.	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	
Mar.	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	
April	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	
May	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	2	
June	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	
July	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	
Aug.	2	0	2	0	1	1	6	6	
Sept.	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Oct.	2	1	0	2	1	0	6	5	
Nov.	1	2	0	1	0	0	4	3	
Dec.	5	0	0	1	0	0	6	3	
Total	13	7	8	5	2	1	36	29	

The number of houses affected was 31, and were as follows :—

26 houses with 1 case in each .....	26 cases.
5 houses with 2 cases in each .....	10 cases.
	—
	36
	—

The premises were occupied by two families in 6 cases, and in 1 case overcrowding was present.

In five houses, defects to the sanitary arrangements were discovered, and have been remedied.

Two of the cases occurred on premises in which milk was produced, and the necessary precautionary steps were carried out, and no spread of the disease resulted.

### Diphtheria.

There were 62 cases of Diphtheria reported to me, and occurred in the Wards of the Borough as shown in the following Table :—

Month.	WARDS.							Total Cases	No. of cases removed to Hospital
	Margam West	Margam Central	Margam North	Aberavon South	Aberavon North	Cwmavon			
Jan.	0	0	0	1	3	0	4	4	
Feb.	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	
Mar.	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	
April	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	
May	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	
June	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	
July	1	1	1	4	1	0	8	6	
Aug.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sept.	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	
Oct.	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	
Nov.	0	1	2	0	4	0	7	5	
Dec.	0	1	31	0	0	0	32	28	
Totals	2	3	38	8	11	0	62	53	

The number of houses affected was 49, and were as follows :—

38 houses with 1 case in each .....	38 cases.
9 houses with 2 cases in each .....	18 cases.
2 houses with 3 cases in each .....	6 cases.

One case of Diphtheria was admitted to the Bridgend Isolation Hospital during the year from the Penybryn Area, as a result of an error by that Authority.

Sixteen of the houses were occupied by more than one family, and in six cases the premises were over-crowded.

In thirteen houses defects were discovered, and notices were served for their abatement.

An epidemic of Diphtheria broke out at Bryn during the latter end of the year, and continued into the early part of the present year. All possible steps were taken with a view to preventing the spread of the disease. The co-operation of the Great Western Railway Company and the Bus Proprietors with services passing through the village was solicited, and the daily disinfection of coaches and buses was carried out with a view to confining the disease to that area, a fact which was accomplished.

Two cases occurred in a farm where a milk supply was involved, but precautionary measures were such that no spread of the disease could be traced to this source.

In connection with the epidemic at Bryn, samples of milk from the two main supplies were obtained, and submitted for bacteriological examination.

### Erysipelas.

There were seven cases of this disease notified to me, and were as follows :—

Month.	WARDS.								Total Cases
	Margam West.	Margam Central	Margam North	Aberavon South	Aberavon North	Cwm-avon			
February	1	0	2	1	0	0			4
July	0	0	0	1	0	0			1
September	0	0	0	1	0	0			1
December	0	0	0	1	0	0			1
Totals	1	0	2	4	0	0			7

There were seven houses affected, being one case in each house.

**Hospital.**

The following cases were removed to the Sanatorium for treatment during the year :—

Scarlet Fever .....	29 cases.
Diphtheria .....	53 cases.
	—
	82
	—

This figure represents 83.7% of the cases notified.

**Infected Rooms and Bedding.**

During the year 300 inspections were made in connection with the notification of Infectious Diseases.

The number of rooms disinfected was 137, together with 123 parcels of bedding.



## SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT.

	Inspections.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
House to House Inspections.....	402	—	—	—	31 houses provided with shoots, 32 shoots repaired, 60 roofs repaired, 8 chimneys repaired, 26 grates repaired, 7 new grates fixed, 8 new ovens fixed, 1 washing boiler fixed, 3 washing boilers repaired, 1 new lead gutter provided, 12 new windows fixed, 39 windows repaired, 8 new doors fixed, 19 doors repaired, 6 stairs repaired, 5 boundary walls repaired, 4 garden gates repaired, 2 hearths repaired, 32 new floors laid, 28 floors repaired, 3 spaces under floors concreted, 33 walls and ceilings re-plastered, 8 dilapidated walls re-built, 4 pine ends cemented, 18 walls rendered damp-proof, 2 skirtings repaired.
Other House Inspections .....	1783	—	—	—	
(a) Structural Defects .....	691	250	247	209	
(b) Foul Conditions .....	691	212	206	46	153 systems of drains cleared, 3 dirty houses cleansed, 12 offensive ditches cleaned out, 12 waste pipes repaired, 2 decomposing carcases buried.

## Summary of Annual Report.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
(c) Overcrowding .....	—	—	—	—	4 houses generally repaired.
(d) Unfit for Habitation .....	53	6	5	—	4 w.c.'s. repaired, 4 flushing tanks repaired, 1 waste pipe repaired, 2 drains cleared, 1 ditch cleaned out, 1 urinal spray pipe repaired, 4 w.c. ranges cleansed and limewashed.
Schools .....	156	14	14	—	105 systems of drains provided, 105 privies abolished, 6 new pails provided, 2 privies cleansed, 5 cesspools cleaned out.
Ashpits, Privies & Cesspools .....	1106	358	182	182	18 accumulations of manure removed, 1 incinerator erected, 1 insanitary erection removed, 2 dung pits erected, 4 nuisances from burning of offal discontinued.
Stables, Refuse & Manure .....	472	36	36	1	10 nuisances from improper keeping of swine abated, 7 nuisances from improper keeping of hogwash abated.
Pigstyes and Swinekeeping .....	89	14	14	2	



## Summary of Annual Report.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
Animals Improperly Kept .....	24	8	8	—	14 nuisances from improper keeping of poultry abated.
Other Nuisances .....	135	11	11	—	
Slaughterhouses .....	231	3	3	—	1 drain repaired, 1 water supply repaired, 1 accumulation of offal removed.
Meat and Food .....	868	—	—	—	The following articles of food were destroyed :— 2,372lbs. of meat, 84lbs. of fish, 82 rabbits, 103 tins of foodstuffs and miscellaneous other foods enumerated in the report.
Cowsheds and Dairies .....	321	55	55	1	10 new floors laid, 11 cowsheds drained, 6 cowsheds lighted and ventilated, 6 sheds provided with stalls and mangers, 4 water supplies laid on, 17 cowsheds and dairies linewashed, 1 water tank cleaned out and covered, 10 accumulations of manure removed, 1 dairy provided, 1 offence from

## Summary of Annual Report.—Continued.

	Inspections.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
Cowsheds & Dairies— <i>Continued</i>					
Water Supplies .....	1304	201	199	57	dirty milking pails abated, 1 offence from improper storage of milk, covered pails provided in 18 instances, 3 offences from unclean udders abated.  6 water supplies laid on, 27 water services re-laid, 68 water services repaired, 54 new flushing tanks fixed, 62 flushing tanks repaired, 1 tank cleaned out.
Drains, Yards, & W.C.'s. ....	5724	605	421	336	119 houses provided with drainage systems, 17 systems re-laid, 28 w.c.'s. re-constructed, 82 w.c.'s. repaired, 173 w.c.'s. provided with tanks, 62 tanks repaired, 30 slop closets converted to w.c.'s., 5 vent shafts provided, 4 vent shafts repaired, 6 inspection chambers provided, 1 drain removed from inside of house, 8 subsoil drains provided, 19 yards repaved, 3 yards repaired.
Infectious Diseases .....	300	—	—	—	137 rooms and 123 parcels of bedding disinfected.

## Summary of Annual Report.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
Workshops .....	175	13	13	4	Sanitary accommodation provided in 2 cases, 2 urinals repaired, 1 sanitary convenience repaired, 3 w.c's. cleaned and linewashed, 7 w.c's. repaired, artificial light provided in 2 cases, 2 drains cleared, privacy secured in 1 case, 1 urinal range provided, 2 floors drained, 1 automatic tank fixed, door fastenings provided in 1 case, 2 roofs repaired, 2 refuse accumulations removed.
Bakehouses .....	75	10	10	4	6 bakehouses linewashed, 3 bakehouses cleaned, 1 motor removed from bakehouse, benches provided in 1 case, proper storage for fuel provided in 2 cases, 1 floor re-laid, 1 w.c. repaired.
Common Lodging Houses .....	32	4	4	—	2 houses cleaned.
Offensive Trades .....	48	6	6	1	2 receptacles provided, 1 chimney provided, 1 fish-shop range and premises cleaned.

Summary of Annual Report.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work done.
Cinemas .....	24	4	4	—	
Housing, Town Planning Inspections and Re-inspections	98	—	—	—	
Totals .....	15193	1810	1438	843	

## HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, etc., ACTS, 1909-1919.

No new inspections under the provisions of these Acts were carried out during the year.

The number of re-inspections made were 98, and were in respect of premises for which Notices had been served in the previous years.

Except for the closure of one house at David's Row, Cwmavon, and its demolition, none of the houses referred to in my last report have been dealt with. While the Corporation have power to compel the closure of these houses and the compulsory eviction of the tenants, the situation as far as the housing shortage is concerned is such that this is an impossible task to perform, and the closure of unfit houses becomes nothing short of a farce.

The Corporation should, in their new housing schemes, provide a percentage of new houses which should be definitely set aside for the housing of persons removed from unfit houses, and until such a course, and for which purpose the Housing Acts are intended to a great extent, is adopted, it is obviously ridiculous to attempt to force the closure of such houses. Housing so far as houses unfit for human habitation are concerned is for this reason alone at a standstill, and having regard to the fact that there are a large number of houses in the Borough, the condition of which is deplorable, this is a matter which should engage the attention of the Corporation.

The need for systematic inspections under the provision of these Acts becomes more and more apparent, and properties which could be dealt with and kept in a reasonable state are gradually allowed to fall into a state of dis-repair.

The shortage of staff which is less than before the amalgamation of the areas, although the work has been considerably increased, prevents any action whatever being taken as far as these Acts are concerned, and the longer this condition of things is allowed to exist, the difficulties when housing inspections are possible will become much greater.

The duty of the Local Authority in carrying out systematic inspections under these Acts is a definite one, and in the event of an inspection of the district and records by the Ministry of Health Inspectors, this question will undoubtedly be a first consideration.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

I beg to submit my Report in connection with the above premises for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

During the year, one new workshop was added to the register and two removed.

These premises may be classified as follows :—

Blacksmiths .....	8	Plumbers .....	8
Bottling Works .....	1	Rag Sorters .....	3
Boat Builders .....	1	Stone Dressers .....	3
Carpenters and Joiners .....	12	Shoemakers & Repairers .....	17
Cabinet Makers .....	5	Sugar Boilers .....	2
Chemical Works .....	2	Sausage Manufacturers .....	7
Cycle Repairers .....	3	Stocking Making .....	1
Coach & Motor Builders.....	6	Saddlers .....	1
Dressmakers .....	5	Tailors .....	9
Dyers and Cleaners .....	1	Wagon Repairers .....	1
Flannel Making .....	1	Weight & Scale Makers.....	1
Hay and Corn Stores .....	2	Wheelwrights .....	2
Ice Cream Manufacturers.....	6	Wood Choppers .....	1
Laundries .....	2	Bakehouses .....	31
Milliners .....	10		
Painters .....	4	Total .....	161
Printers .....	5		

### WORKSHOPS.

During the year 175 inspections of workshops, etc., were made.

Thirteen nuisances were discovered, and for their abatement 13 Informal and 4 Statutory Notices were served and the following works were executed :—

Sanitary conveniences provided in 2 cases, 1 sanitary convenience repaired, 2 urinals repaired, 3 w.c's. cleansed and limewashed, 7 w.c's. repaired, artificial light provided in 2 cases, 1 urinal range provided, 1 automatic tank fixed, 2 roofs repaired, 2 drains cleared, privacy secured in 1 case, 2 floors drained, door fastenings provided in 1 case, 2 refuse accumulations removed.

### Bakehouses.

There were 75 inspections of bakehouses recorded and 10 nuisances were discovered, for the abatement of which 10 Informal and 4 Statutory Notices were served.

The following works were executed :—6 bakehouses limewashed, 1 motor removed from bakehouse, proper storage for fuel provided in 2 cases, 1 w.c. repaired, 3 bakehouses cleansed benches provided in 1 case, 1 floor re-laid.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**WM. F. BISHOP,**

20th March, 1926.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.







